

Small Group Discussion Questions Abbeville County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- School is center of community.
- DHE, CTE, DHS
- GED program with childcare.
- Opportunity of after school program
- Service students in schools/community.
- Various scholarships through community churches, industry, etc.
- Business and industry advisory council
- Pre K program
- Business support
- Reading program
- Tutors/ mentors
- Inter- agency support
- Beckman mental health
- Police department DARE
- DSS/ DJJ
- County library
- Service learning k-12
- Shadow program
- Career program
- Career fair
- Character education (includes community leaders)
- Career Days
- EEDA programs
- First Steps

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Close of industries / loss of jobs/ money for schools

- Transportation
- Enough qualified teachers
- Attitudes toward education.
- Parental involvement
- Lack of good news about schools.
- Money
- Facilities
- Apathy
- Disparity
- Offering more courses through technology.
- Keep educating our community members.
- Recruit more minority teachers.
- Parent involvement
- Student advocates
- Economic status
- Unaware of programs and services
- Lack of well-rounded/ structured after school programs.
- Exclusion of high achievers in after school programs
- Lack of art, music, dance, creative art-programs to inspire future careers.
- Lack of time
- Scarcity of resources
- Teacher burnout
- Teacher burnout
- Lack of resource gatekeeper.
- Concerns re: home schooling/private ed.
- Concerns re: data reports/ interp.
- Lack of volunteers
- Lack of communication/ concern re: all areas within the county i.e. – too much division

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- promote school in addition to athletics
- Offer talents to schools.
- Business mentors.
- Summer program to recognize deserving students
- Town meetings to inform the public.

- Student advocates in each school(student rights
- Resource gatekeeper
- Allocate additional resources
- Pay for performance of educators
- Reward educators for milestone improvements
- Work together-establish common goals for the larger community.
- Use word of mouth
- Include the faith community.
- Ask specifically for what you want.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Promote school in addition to athletes.
- Communication
- Mentor
- Personal involvement
- Support tax initiatives
- Speak positively about improvements.
- Encourage community involvement in schools.
- Fund raisers-Golf tournaments, etc.
- Encourage employers to financially schools.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Abbeville County

People Signed In 23

Participated In Survey 21

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	14	6	1	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	11	10	0	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	11	8	2	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	6	14	1	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	14	1	0	0	0	21
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	8	12	1	0	0	0	21

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	21	0	0	0	21

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	19	2	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	20	1	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	20	1	0	0	21

Comments

Where do we go from here?

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Come again next year for update.

We need to know what our next role is in this process.

Involve more people from communities.

Needs follow up/ report on it / time made a difference.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
11	4	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	22

Small Group Discussion Questions

Aiken County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Spending
- Building schools
- Several community groups
- Pre-school programs
- Teacher training
- Together Aiken County
- Quality of Life
- North Augusta 2000
- Public Education Partners
- Awareness, concerns, support for education
- Summer Institute-teacher training
- Ruth Patrick Science Center
- Week of the Young Child
- Business support of parent volunteerism
- C of C work force development
- 1st Steps and Fatherhood Initiative
- Business mentoring programs and scholarships
- Teacher mentoring (District)
- After school tutoring
- Faith based initiatives
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Salvation Army
- Churches together for Kid's tutoring
- AACAN Conference
- USC-A Diversity Conference
- Ruby Payne Poverty Workshop
- Freedman/PineCrest Parenting Center-GED accomplishment
- Industry employee mentors in elementary schools
- Nuture Home- (Sponsor mental health alliance)
- SC Alliance of Black Educators
- Faith community sponsoring Ruby Payne's Framework for Understanding Poverty Initiatives
- School board sharing workshops
- County wide reading program

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Red tape and bureaucracy
- Need to be welcomed and engaged
- Parents need to be good role models
- Garbage on TV/Media
- Lack of adult supervision
- Parental training needed
- More dialog is happening but needs to expand
- Spiritual foundations are missing; need a return to the basics
- Time students spend with teachers
- Retention of teachers in profession

- Allocation of money
- County size
- Transportation
- Effective sponsorship/coordination/leadership
- Resistance to change
- Multiple visions
- Child care after school needs
- Funding
- Geographic size, diversity
- Demographic challenges
- Money
- Facilities (aging and overcrowding)
- Technology
- Lack of financial attention from corporations and foundations
- Political will on a state level
- Information management
- Lack of involvement by local governments, need to take more ownership
- Getting stakeholders (parents) to come out
- Transportation for low income
- Child care
- Parents do not see relevance
- Younger parents
- Time Constraints due to working schedules
- Don't feel welcome at schools and district office (intimidation)
- Too much emphasis on negative

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Recognize the need
- Identify and prioritize the opportunities
- Enlist and empower those who will make the changes
- Celebrate success
- Don't give up
- Embrace new ideas
- Stay the course
- Identify success stories
- Visit schools/help with needs
- Community awareness of needs based on facts
- Building collaborations to accomplish specific goals
- Get churches actively involved in education (e.g. periodic roundtable of local pastors and school officials)
- Seek sponsors from community for education programs
- Mentoring programs for parents
- Education system more receptive and open to community collaborations
- Dismantle the "WE" and "They" viewpoints
- Find Common Ground
- Unite community-learn who neighbors are
- Learn statistics that impact life (incarceration rate)

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Support teachers/administrators
- Attend school board meetings

- Do your own research about schools in community
- Identify talent/time commitments
- Learn how to give time/talent
- Point person to take message back to community
- Share life experiences

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Aiken County

People Signed In 35

Participated In Survey 15

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	7	7				1	15
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	3	9	2			1	15
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	8	7					15
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	7	6	1			1	15
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	9					15
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	9					15

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	13	1		1	15
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	11		3	1	15

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	12	1		2	15
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	8	7			15
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	12	2	1		15
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	12	2		1	15
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	7	6		2	15

Comments

I think it says a lot about our school district when the superintendent walks out of the meetings before group discussion. She obviously doesn't want to hear what the community has to say.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Volunteer

Citizen

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
7	1	1	1	1		1			2	1	15

January 31, 2007

Lee E. Harley-Fitts, Director
Allendale County DSS
(803) 584-8112

Response to the questions from the Education Oversight Committee:

1. What are the challenges faced by half of South Carolina's public schools, which enroll a student body in which at least 70 percent of student live in poverty?

In my opinion, the challenges are as follows (not necessarily in the order listed):

- Low morale
- No discipline at home or at school
- No positive male figure in the home
- A mentality that the "system" (DSS, Medicaid, etc...) owes them something

All of these things listed above make it hard for teachers to effectively perform their jobs. We have teachers who are trying to teach students that they are afraid of. Therefore, when the "trouble-makers" act out and disturb the class, the children who really want to learn, can't learn because of these students. Other students join in with the disruption to be accepted and to keep from being bullied.

2. How can we elevate the performance of high-achieving students?

We must take our school system back. There must be tougher discipline rules. Teachers need to know that when they send a student to the office that the student is going to be dealt with. On the other hand, teachers should ensure that they are not sending students to the office for "simple" things that they can handle themselves.

3. How do we support students and schools while dealing with the unprecedented economic and demographic changes South Carolina is already facing?

Although the State of South Carolina is currently undergoing major changes in regards to Economics and Demographics, we still must keep our focus. Young minds cannot be sacrificed while dealing with these issues. I am a firm believer that we can take a little and do wonders, if it is in the hands of the "right" person. We need leaders who care enough to get in the trenches and help. It doesn't take money to volunteer and read to a Kindergarten class. We do not want to give of our time and energy to pass what we know is essential on to our children. Encouragement doesn't cost anything monetary. Today, 1/26/07, I visited an awards program at Fairfax Elementary. It would have been great to see some School Board members, Council members, and even the Superintendent. They may not be your biological children, but just to have the leaders visible at things that may not spark a press release really says a lot.

4. What are the expectations for South Carolina schools?

I expect for the school systems in South Carolina to come up to par. I love my home but have considered relocating due to the poor school system. I want my children to have a good education so that they will be equipped to face the challenges in life. I want to be proud of our school system. Also, if the school system is improved, it will attract more business and industry. This will benefit the entire community.

5. How can we as individuals, organizations, and communities support improved achievement for all students?

We can support our children; love them but also let them know that misbehaving and being disrespectful (at home/school) is not acceptable; encourage them to do their very best (not settle for mediocrity); spend time with them (parents doing homework/reading); listen to them; talk to them – not at them. We must remember that our children are people too. We are responsible for molding and shaping their lives so that they can be the best that they can be. It is up to us to fashion productive citizens. One day, they will be the leaders of our community. Our actions can determine whether they are the next drug addict, thug on the corner or the next President of the United States.

Another issue in Allendale County that is a major factor is the issue to uneducated parents. We have parents that do not value education, thus, that same mentality is passed down to their children.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Allendale County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- All initiatives that work with Early Childhood population
 - Dental Clinic
 - Adult Education
 - Healthy Learners
 - Little New Steps
 - 1st Steps
 - Boys & Girls Club
- New Industry/Workforce training introduced locally
- Expansion of programs at USC-Salk
 - Nursing
 - New Technology Program
 - Teacher Program
 - Youth Leadership program
- 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Ameri-Corp
- Community Groups
 - Heart to Heart
 - M. Lott Computer Training
- County library teen action group
- Clemson Extension
- Teacher sign-on bonus
- PTA-SIC
- Parent Involvement Initiative-Workshops, and conferences
- Using SCSBA to assist in new superintendent search
- Career Counselor at AFMS
- Men Mentoring Young Program
- Homework center
- Gear-Up 7th-12th graders
- Low Country Health Start (Teen Pregnancy Prevention)
-

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- Poverty
- Apathy
- Personnel
- Teacher Housing
- Teacher moral
- Increased parental involvement
- Negative perception that locals and others have about the schools
- Lack of hope that anything can change
- Transportation
- Teen pregnancy
- Substance abuse
- Gangs growth
- Gang activities
- Gang want-to-be's
- Behavior/Discipline

- Lack of quality of life
- Lack of amenities to attract and retain quality teachers
- Allendale-Fairfax rival
- Nothing to do in the community
- No recreational facility
- Parental education levels
- School building funding
- No community centers
- Racial divide
- Low teacher pay scale
- People not feeling wanted
- Lack of jobs
- Lack of quality teachers
- Isolation
- Lack of professionalism
- Attitude

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Involvement
- Find a way to connect community and education system
- Build trust between schools, parents and community
- Being innovative and creative to address concerns working on partnerships
- Educate the community on how to be involved
- Develop more mentoring programs
- Collaborate with chamber of commerce and economic boards of the state
- Work Force investments grant
- Work with state agencies for grants

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Allendale County

People Signed In 11

Participated In Survey 6

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	3	3					6
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	3	3					6
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	3	3					6
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	2	3	1				6
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	3	2				1	6
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	4	2					6

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	5		1		6
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	5	1			6

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	5	1			6
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	6				6
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	6				6
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	5			1	6
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	4	1		1	6

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
3		1				2					6

Small Group Discussion Questions Anderson County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- School improvement council
- Strategic plan
- Dual enrollment
- Gateway To College
- Anderson 4 Family Learning Center
- GED-Childcare/Parenting
- First steps-nutrition
- Healthy schools initiative
- After school programs
- Employer educating employee
- Already dedicated, students are center of education.
- Operation impact
- Team Parenting Programs
- S. Fant Early Childhood Development Center
- Strong teaching force.
- Anderson literacy
- University mentoring programs
- Advd-accelerated program
- Star-Academy-Accelerated Program
- Faith-Based Grant Program
- Business Partnerships
- Virtual Schools-Nova Net
- Strong professional development for teachers
- District and school strategic plans that address the common ground commitment.
- Downtown as a classroom
- Head starts reading and science initiatives.
- After school tutoring adults
- Strong mentoring
- Ministers / faith based initiating children preparing children for education plus high school to partnerships
- Business/educational partnerships
- Mentoring for new teachers
- Partnership with local universities
- Partnerships with faith community and business organizations.

- Save money by combining staff development.
- Partnership with Anderson County mental health
- Buildings open for communities in school program
- Family child development centers.
- School based nurses
- Adult ed. promoted and supported throughout county.
- High risk intervention system for parenting
- Teen pregnancy prevention
- School to work, job shadowing
- Ninth grade academy
- After school clubs, activities
- Nova-net

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Teaching the parent change values of parents.
- Poverty
- Illiteracy of parents
- Pre- school funding
- Funding in general
- More fair testing that has diagnostic data, public must know the truth about public education.
- Apathy
- Please share all the information from the EOC
- Social/ economic depression
- Teen pregnancy
- Family problems
- In school discipline
- Poor attendance
- Low self-esteem
- Negative publicity
- Based on faulty report card data
- Redefine how we are judged. SC criteria
- PACT testing
- Amount of educator input (ie, make up of EOC as example)

- Accurate data pulled at SDE for SASI

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Be a bigger advocate.
- Reduce level of apathy
- Increase level of parent involvement
- Outreach (birth age to school)
- Revamp assessment
- Fair accountability system
- Review new property tax law
- Politicians focus on public education for the right reason
- Support education through tax monies(ex. Tax-in-lien)
- Recruit businesses
- Integration between agencies that meet the need of each student
- Promote positive

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Focus on things we have control over in education
- Collaboration from Pre-K on up.
- Reduce level of apathy

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Anderson County

People Signed In 55

Participated In Survey 20

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	4	13	2	0	0	1	20
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	2	11	3	2	1	1	20
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	4	9	5	0	1	1	20
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	2	7	9	0	0	2	20
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	11	6	0	0	1	20
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	2	11	2	1	1	3	20

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	17	0	1	2	20
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	16	0	2	2	20

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	15	1	2	2	20
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	14	4	0	2	20
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	8	8	0	4	20
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	7	10	0	3	20
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	11	7	1	1	20

Comments

I wish the meetings were used to truly obtain change in SC.

The break activity wasn't helpful because I didn't think we were specific enough.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Knowing feedback will go back to the EOC.

More information prior to meeting.

Address the issue of PACT and Accountability. Common assessment of SC and other states.

Listen and take notes to report back to EOC the concerns of educators and parents.

To listen to concern of getting result to and from the student.

Needs more time.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
12	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	20

Small Group Discussion Questions Bamberg County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Early childhood collaboration with First Steps
- Local Headstart-Transition Agreement
- Pre-K Child Development – ½ Day
- Parent educators providing home visits
- Parent-Family Literacy
- Gifted and Talented
- K-3 Reading First School
- 4th-5th Grade Campus B-SCRI
- Hired Curriculum Specialist
- ON going staff development in all schools
- Middle school-after school program
- Churches provide after school assistance to students
- Teen Life Center-Denmark
- Gentlemen's Club at Middle school
- AP Program at high school- College level courses taught at HS-English
- School to work program
- ROTC
- Partnered with Career Center
- Seeking to have special needs children included with programs at First Steps
- Low Country Health Start
- Library, Parenting Programs, Teen Life Center: reducing teen pregnancies
- Looking at HIV-Education and Prevention (DHEC)
- Re-enforcing Values
- Job Corps, Denmark Tech.,
- Local churches
- United Way

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Latch key children not involved in programs
- Poverty
- Parents working outside of community
- Lack of outside industry
 - Main industries-school system and hospital
- Lack of qualified and certified teachers
- Parent Involvement
- Daycare and after school programs that are affordable
- Transportation

- Quality-Affordable housing
- Aging population
- Lack of education
- The schools themselves

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Talk to and educate parents on need for involvement
- Be accountable
- Get everybody involved
 - Grass Root Involvement
- More collaboration and faith based communities
- Each school needs a more active parent-teacher organization
- Mentoring program
- Transparency
- Open line to political leaders
- Educate Parents

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Challenge older kids to their very best as they are the future
- Locate and seek out all agencies that can assist with education the community as a whole
- Continue to serve as an advocate for quality education in Bamberg County through the First Steps Program

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Bamberg County

People Signed In 12
Participated In Surve 9

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	4	4	1				9
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	2	1				9
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	6	3					9
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	7	1	1				9
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	7	2					9
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	7	2					9

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	8			1	9

The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	8			1	9
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	9				9
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	9				9
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	9				9
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	8			1	9
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	9				9

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
5	1		2		1						9

Small Group Discussion Questions Barnwell County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Head Start
- First Steps
- 4K Combined to ensure full day services
- Work with AXIS I parenting program
- PACE Program
- One Stop Shop
- After school programs (faith based)
- Math and science coach
- Teacher mentoring program
- MAP testing program
- Staff Development
- Family literacy
- AXIS I provides counseling
- Polly Best Mental Health
- 4-H program
- DARE
- Staff Recognition
- 4-K and 3-K in all school districts in the county
- CDC
- 21st Century Learning Grant (After School)
- Aiken Barnwell Mental Health
- AP and Honors Courses
- Good county career center
- Recreational programs
- All libraries have internet access
- Induction/Mentoring Programs (teachers)
- Professional development for teachers and admin
- Job Shadowing/Corp
- Adult Education
- Certified teachers
- Technology available in schools and libraries
- Alternative schools
- Student mentoring program
- Head Start Program for fathers
- PTO/PTA
- Success by Six
- Curriculum coaching/coordinating
- Tri-County Workforce Alliance

- Good News Clubs
- Community Programs/Assemblies
- Arts Council Involvement
- Alternative sentencing (community service to serve schools)
- Family nights
- School Improvement council
- Forum/Focus Groups for parents
- Character Education
- School-to-Work Program
- P.P.P. # 19
- PAGE #29
- Freshman Academy
- College courses offered on sites
- DIBELS
- READ

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Taxes
- Discipline
- Transportation
- Drop out rate
- Illiterate parents
- Children entering school not ready to learn
- Teacher retention
- Technology
- Poverty level/Economic development
- Lack of full day 4 year old program for every child
- Apathy
- Adequate housing for teachers
- Time
- Lack of community amenities
 - Hotels
 - Movie Thaters
 - Recreational facilities
- Lack of resources/funding
- Facilities
- Parental involvement
- Lack of understanding
- Environmental problems
- Rapport between parent and teacher
- Community involvement
- Lack of industry
- 3 school districts in a small county
- Racial issues

- Not enough adult education services
- Quality childcare/daycare
- Retention of educated students

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Stress the value of education
- Commit resources (time and money) to education
- Promote/market the schools
- STAY Involved
- Increase awareness of issues affecting education
- Community coordination
- Districts Collaborating
- Access resources
- Look at practices that are working in other districts
- Think out side the box
- Use existing funding more efficiently
- Recruit more adult education participants
- Better communication and interaction between schools and communities
- Promote county unity/pride
- Schools need to help in industry recruitment
- Collaboration between business and education entities
- Community development
- Improved communication
- Develop leaders
 - Jr. Leadership
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Rewarding good teachers

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Parents respect teachers

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Barnwell County

People Signed In 30

Participated In Survey 24

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	16	3				24
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	2	19	3				24
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	10	14					24
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	19	3			1	24
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	19	3				24
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	14	4				24

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	23			1	24
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	23			1	24

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	23			1	24
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	23			1	24
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	23			1	24
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	20	1		3	24
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	20	2		2	24

Comments

Facility was cold

Quite effective as conducted.

The room was too cold. Coffee would have helped to warm us up. But despite the environmental/climate issues, the meeting was very informative
Warmer room.

More segments of the community representative.

The meeting was very informative however I've noticed some racial issues in Barnwell County.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Greater opportunity to share concerns in education.

Let groups work with their own school district to really assess what can be done

Provide future community workshops on initiatives that work and getting communities more involved in education.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
16	1	3	2		1			1			24

Small Group Discussion Questions Beaufort County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Using NWEA's MAP assessment for more timely detailed assessment to drive instruction.
- Educating greater community on need of schools (Money, Academic issues, Diversity, Economic impact
- Improving communication both ways
- Increase early childhood program
- Strong pre-K program that needs to be expanded.
- Dual credit and articulation programs in place
- Strong technology plan
- Strong facilities program
- Every newborn presented with a book
- Pre-K at most schools if not all
- Reading recovery (1st grade)
- Excels program
- After school programs
- Ronald McDonald Van
- Public libraries
- School improvement council
- PTO
- Increase Pre-K programs
- Identify the changing demographic and provide diagnostic placement assessment tools
- Incentives for teachers-recruitment bonus, proficient development for learning differences.
- More pre-K, retain in early grades , develop alt. ed., move away from social promotion
- Offer after school programs and civic organizations (ss, too)
- Tying sports programs to academic success
- Church, Faith based programs

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Loss of state funding-funding formulas
- Huge growth (diverse) infrastructure impact
- Budget approval (cycle creates challenges to recruitment / hiring of qualified staff.
- Employee incentives (lack of)
- New state funding formula
- Retention of teachers
- Parental involvement and responsibility
- Disconnect between the practical and the political
- Communication between school and parents
- Communication between district and school
- Communication between district and parents
- Communication between state and district
- Homework standards
- State funding
- ESOL population
- Teacher quality
- Funding, better diagnostic assessment, commitment to and funding for strong leaders/ teachers, uncertainty of state revenue
- Parents working (both)
- Single parent families
- Lack of resources including technology
- Peer pressure

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Public/ Private Partnerships
- Capitalize on retirement community – mentoring, tutoring
- Community education – needs, issues
- Chamber Golden Apple Program
- Continue to advocate and to educate the public
- Find ways to bridge the gaps between various groups in the community
-ad lib
- increase communication
- parent education
- value the role of the teacher
- character education
- schools to be more student centered

- focus on student who, what they need, where, when
- vote...know the issues and candidates
- respect cultural differences
- learn English language
- join civic groups; be active in community
- demand statewide understanding (and action!) for local issues, esp. re: SDE regs and testing>

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Beaufort County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	13	2
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	12	2
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	7	10	2
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	5	13	1
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	13	2
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	5	12	3

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	16	0	1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	17	1	2
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	20	0	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	16	4	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	18	1	0
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	15	2	0
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	11	7	0

Comments

Very idealistic - I don't know how any of these will actually get the focus of the entire community.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Hold it at school so that you can interact with students. Prepare a video that can be sent out to all sc

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader
11	0	2	3	0	1	3

Form

People Signed In 29
Participated In Survey 20

Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
0	0	0	20
1	0	0	20
1	0	0	20
1	0	0	20
1	0	0	22
0	0	0	20

NR	Totals
3	20
0	20
0	20
0	20
1	20
2	19
2	20

chools made from inerviewing the students and parents from the high achieving school.

Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
1	0	0	0	21

Small Group Discussion Questions

Berkeley County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- DIBELS to identify at risk students
- Comprehensive Literacy
- MAPS
- Diagnostic tools to ID needs
- Reading programs throughout schools
- Writing projects
- 9th Grade Academy
- State standards and curriculum incorporated into SRP and LRP
- H.S. Pacing Guides
- Community involvement
- Business Partners
- Math Buddies
- Title One/Parents
- Involving parents and community
- Vocational programs at high school level
- Living skills/Life skills course work at high school
- Internship programs
- Service learning in schools
- Career day sat all levels and guest speakers
- Career specialists
- Americorp partnership
- Our adult education and businesses work together through work KEYS program
- Daniel Island School and Partnership City of North Charleston
- One Stop Center
- Industry Partnerships
- Mentoring
- Implementation of EEDA
- Career Specialists
- Certified teachers
- HQ Staff
- NBC Incentives
- Adequate facilities
- Charleston Southern, Citadel, SCSU, College of Charleston partnership with teacher education program
- Teacher training
- Distance learning centers
- Smart boards, Notepads, etc.
- Grading scale K-4 and K-5 (ECERS) Early Childhood Environmental Reading Scale

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- High school clusters driven toward economic application
- ESL program should be instituted for training of all teachers/administration
- Poverty-Title 1 programs
- Need to address African American boys as to Ruby Payne Research 3rd grad on up
- Need to make links with local colleges-admissions testing, info on scholarships, colleges coming into schools
- Need more effective transitions to tech or regular colleges

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Mentoring programs
- Intervention teams
- Provide program for 1st year teachers
- Parenting room with resources
- Family nights out
- Strive to educate all voters on importance of electing representatives that will ensure equity in statewide funding
- Educate public on the importance of K4 program
- Concrete strategies to close achievement gap
- Continually enhance family literacy program
- Establish more connections and partnerships with churches and community leaders
- Help individuals in rural areas achieve credentials –GED, etc.
- Investigate other alternatives to traditional graduation (online courses, etc.)
- Develop competency testing

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Mentoring
- Guidance lessons

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Berkeley County

People Signed In **20**

Participated In Survey *12*

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	7	0	0	0	0	12
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	7	3	2	0	0	0	12
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	4	5	2	0	0	1	12
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	3	7	2	0	0	0	12
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	9	1	0	0	0	12
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	3	7	2	0	0	0	12

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	11	1	0	0	12
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	11	0	0	1	12

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	11	1	0	0	12
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	5	6	0	1	12
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	7	3	1	1	12
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	8	1	0	3	12
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	10	0	0	2	12

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

A list of contacts of key people across the state with whom poverty issues are being addressed successfully would have been helpful.

A full day format would have allowed time to work through the entire Common Ground action plan.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Cafeteria Manger

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	12

Small Group Discussion Questions

Calhoun County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- ABC reinstatement
- Summer arts program
- District and school leadership
- Local input and ties to Calhoun
- Best museum in SC-works with students

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- High standards
- Need more time for some students
- Parent gap
- Catch-22
- Standards overwhelm other school activities
- Talented students not exposed to enough-end up unaware of what it takes to compete
- Not enough extra-curricular activities (school or home)
- NO community recreation
- NO minor sports
- Transportation
- Healthcare
- Parents don't talk to children
- Low level of parent participation because of work hours
- Poor students in the middle not encouraged or pushed
- Children raising children
- Discipline
- Not knowing how to behave in polite society

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Reading
- Tie the county together
- Counter stereotypes
- Reinforce stability
- Work with Big Brother/Sisters mentors
- Build trust

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Charleston County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- CCSD Coherent Curriculum
- Superintendents dedication to adequate funding
- MGAP, PGAP- Acceleration Program
- 9th Grade Academies
- Establishment of more Pre-K classes
- BOWs-Beyond Our Walls-Volunteer and community support and resources for schools
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Foster Grandparents Program
- Career Pathways
- United Way Success by Six
- Books @ Birth
- Charleston County going back to vocational education in high schools
- Education Foundation
- 62% of 9th graders in Career Academics Pathways
- Four school districts in three counties
- College of CHS-train the teachers; entrepreneurship in classrooms
- NFTE program
- Colleges are doing a better job of preparing teachers for different environments
- Teacher retention on the rise
- Leadership Training

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Lack of support to assist high school students in transitioning into the work world
- Low teacher expectations
- Schools are not the center of the community
- How welcoming are schools to parents?
- Leadership
- Laws that reflect an education that is minimally adequate
- Social and Economic environment
- "Willing to accept failure"
- Board of trustees
- Lack of commitment from educators to early childhood education
- Public perception of education
- Disconnect between elected leaders and community over priorities

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Making education a priority and valued by all with the dollars to support it
- Education is everybody's business
- Schools are in crisis so we need to respond to this crisis
- Create opportunities to bring parents into the schools-building parents' capacity for involvement; building parents' comfort level
- Will and intent to solve the problem
- Educating the public about what's going on in public school
- Visual continuum of birth-education onward
- School board members should care more about the kids future than taxes
- More collaboration among the hired and schools

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Charleston County

People Signed In 40

Participated In Survey 3

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	2	1	0	0	0	0	3

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	3	0	0	0	3
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	3	0	0	0	3

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	3	0	0	0	3
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	3	0	0	0	3
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	3	0	0	0	3
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	3	0	0	0	3
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	3	0	0	0	3

Comments

The meeting was very helpful in the presentation of essential information on Common Ground.
We must continue to meet and to put into effect what is necessary for children.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3

Small Group Discussion Questions Cherokee County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- In – touch program (on line access to grades)
- Schoolnotes.com (communication to parenst)
- 4K programs in all elem. Schools
- collaboration with Med Start and private providers
- PTO's
- Strong recruitment of teachers
- Add –lou
- Clemson create- special needs “grow our own”
- Limestone college partnership
- PACE program
- School to work
- Career/ tech works with businesses
- Renaissance program in High School / business programs in high schools
- EEDA

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parent apathy
- Better communication from schools
- Can't reach all 4 yr. olds
- Parent involvement in middle and high schools.
- Serving families
- Homebound programs
- Administration turnover
- New teachers not staying
- highly competitive
- flexibility (hours) with pace program
- alternative paths to employment

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- (encourage) address students responsibility-involving student ambassadors.
- Engage faith community- huge resource
- Assess resources and make sure they are doing the most good. Find what's effective.
- Expand alternative ways to help children's success.
- Educate parents its alright to go down alternative path.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Cherokee County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	1	3	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	1	3	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	1	3	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	3	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	1	3	0	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	1	3	0	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	3	0	0	1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	4	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	4	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	4	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	3	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	3	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	4	0	0	0

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	1	4

Small Group Discussion Questions Chesterfield County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Strong Partnership
- businesses support programs and scholarships
- first steps
- faith based after school programs
- homework centers at churches and Boys and Girls club and YMCA
- libraries provide computer access
- CCCC
- Family literacy program- especially Hispanic families
- Special programs for parents
- Strong in school volunteer program
- Strong mentoring program especially in primary and elementary school
- Strong school to work transition
- 9th grade academy at Cheraw High
- open house to community in schools
- partnership with head start-transition
- shared professional education
- training to retain educators
- certify in critical needs
- meeting between school district and college (EEDA-dual enrollment
- coordination council-interagency articulation
- parent involvement in schools
- working with different stakeholders-faith communities-making aware
- press relations with media
- articulation with service organizations
- career specialists in middle and high schools
- plan town hall meetings with business and industry leaders
- building program
- YMCA after school care
- First steps resource center (NETC)
- Area county libraries
- Adult education expansion to attendance areas (RSFRC)
- Hi tech transition program
- Training for “new mentor” guidelines
- Opening school facilities for community use during non- school hours
- Financially support teachers

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Need for quality local training
- Clear line of communication between parents, educators, and other stakeholders
- Terminology issue
- funds
- not valuing education
- high poverty rate
- standard demographics
- rural problems with eco of scale
- highly qualified teachers
- fear from parents to be involved
- social economic differences
- less appreciation for necessity of education
- lack of technology in homes and schools
- Geography of county
- Stringent rules and responsibility that need flexibility
- Unfunded mandates
- Geographic and isolation
- Educational background of community
- Varying needs across attendance areas
- High poverty rate
- Retention of teachers and administration

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Improve communication
- Funding that leads to learning
- Formalize partnerships so they last longer than personality
- Make school more the center of the community
- Help parents not be intimidated
- Involve arts
- Adult education community build facilities to share near or in schools
- Alternative means of recruiting and retaining quality teachers
- Communication between all parties
- Lobbying for the needs of our community
- Seek and pursue alternative sources of funding (grants, etc.)
- Gain clarity of our own common ground.
- Better utilize current resources
- Improved communication with community (support)
- Maximize academic potential of every student

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Take responsibility
- Become more involved

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Chesterfield County

People Signed In 22

Participated In Survey 18

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	11	0	1	1	0	18
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	12	1	0	1	0	18
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	5	12	1	0	0	0	18
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	4	13	0	0	1	0	18
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	11	1	0	0	0	18
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	8	10	0	0	0	0	18

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	18	0	0	0	18
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	16	1	1	0	18

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	16	2	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	16	2	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	16	2	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	18	0	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	17	1	0	0	18

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Proper time allocated for more efficient process

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
9	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	18

Small Group Discussion Questions Chester County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Technology improvement
- Ruby Payne training on poverty
- Safe and healthy schools
- School choices
- Interagency collaborating
- Leadership training
- After – school programs/ (YMCA, 21st Century, Scouts, Distance learning classes)
- Schools of choice(private, charter, fine arts, technology inquiry)
- Ruby Payne – Framework for understanding poverty (k-12)
- Foundation Support (Chamber, Sims, Lutz Springs/ Close SS Healthcare)
- Remediation Programs (before/after, during school supplemental services)
- Technology

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Lack of funding
- Teacher retention
- Matching facilities with curriculum needs
- Poverty
- Apathy
- Local economic conditions
- Trust
- Family structure
- Poverty
- Geographic (3attendance areas)
- Lack of industry
- Housing
- Understanding diversity/ building trust
- Transportation
- Political environment
- How education is valued in the culture
- Tax base

- Recruitment of teaches, etc.

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Collaboration with community, interagency, and families
- District and community support for school
- Ongoing legislative support
- Promote / communicate our successes
- Retention of qualified teachers
- Build relationships between school, families, communities
- Pool resources and facilities
- Recognize student achievement in front of extra – curricular “captive” audiences.
- Recognize not all achievement is not “ PACT” based- career centers

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Chester County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	1	1	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	0	2	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	2	0	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	1	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	1	1	0	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	1	1	0	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	2	0	0	0
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	1	1	0	0
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	2	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	2	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	2	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	2	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	2	0	0	0

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	0	2

Small Group Discussion Questions

Clarendon County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Collaboration of high schools with career center/adult education
- Parent educators work closely with adult education/schools/families
- Technology
- Political support
- Partnerships (i.e. SRD's in schools, job shadowing, health care-dental, faith based organizations)
- County, schools, and FE DuBose providing facilities
- Churches (faith community) bringing in technology opportunities
- Nationally Certified Teachers (large numbers, large pool of teachers with longevity in system)

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Poverty
- Availability of jobs
- Transportation (bus, public)
- Certified/highly qualified personnel
- Funding ("focused")
- Parental Support/involvement
- Definition of 'community' (and issues)
- Equity
- Taking advantage of educational opportunity
- Every child has different support systems. Some negative. Poverty of children creating barriers. Male role models not in abundance.

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Meetings to communicate
- Public relations (positive)
- Community use of facilities
- Collaboration among all stakeholders in planning and developing
- Encourage involvement
- Integrity of the family unit. (Participating in Education of student)
- Religion placed in education (Christian Background)
- Education Readiness begins at home. Parents are 1st teachers
- State funding needs to be re-appropriated to areas that may get larger results (i.e. moving proficient students to advance)
- Teach critical thinking/not PACT test

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Clarendon County

People Signed In 13

Participated In Survey 11

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	3	8	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	1	10	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	5	6	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	3	7	1	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	3	8	0	0	0	0	11
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	5	6	0	0	0	0	11

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	11	0	0	0	11
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	10	1	0	0	11

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	8	1	2	0	11
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	9	2	0	0	11
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	10	1	0	0	11
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	9	0	0	2	11
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	9	1	0	1	11

Comments

Perfect

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Examples of real and concrete strategies that are being used such as PAIRS

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
4	1	2			1	1				2	11

Small Group Discussion Questions

Colleton County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- We only serve 50% of our 4 Year Old Students
- We provide after school programs at all of our elementary and middle schools
- We provide free breakfast for all students
- Summer programs have been provided at all elementary schools and 2 middle schools
- Some schools have strong volunteer programs
- The county has increased funding for our schools
- Effective parent involvement needs to be defined. We almost assess the barriers.
- Adult Education is expanding

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Business partnerships need strengthening
- Poverty
- Transportation
- Lack of neighborhood and community schools
- Not producing a local teaching force
- Learning doesn't matter
- Lack of engagement
- Children are experience deprived
- Education not valued as a means for improving economic states

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- We want our children to learn and succeed
- Economic Alliance
- Tell positive stories/celebrate successes

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- We want the best for our children so we have to do our job well despite the pay.
- Families/homes need to commit.
- District/high schools need to be committed to their employees.
- To discipline and safety at school
- Americorps grant – Clemson
- Role Models/mentors
- Arts Education
- To our teachers

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Colleton County

People Signed In 15

Participated In Survey 0

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	0	0	0	0	0
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	0	0	0	0	0

Small Group Discussion Questions

Darlington County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- New facilities in Darlington County
- New career center being used by Florence-Darlington TEC
- Dual enrollment with Clemson and USC
- Meeting with different agencies to ensure quality K4 programs, ie Headsart, private programs and DCSC
- SIC
- Mentor programs
- Freshman (9th) advisors
- Shared recreational facilities
- First Steps/engagement with PK- program
- Imagination library/ books for preschoolers
- Library / Make home visits, literacy promotion, child activities
- District/ ongoing partnership with head start for ease in school transition
- After school programs
- Business partnerships/ school and business relation/ emphasis- career opportunity
- Need: we should market what we do
- Hold community forum
- We have a need for a greater public presence

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in our community?

- Budgets
- Poverty
- Jobs
- Tax restricted job opportunities
- Health
- Staff compensation
- Resources
- Working conditions
- Staff Qualifications
- Lack of access
- Communications among diverse populations
- Lack of literacy
- Increasing diversity
- Understanding poverty
-

List the 5 most important things you community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Interagency communication/ Integration
- Collective “voices” from the interagencies
- Systemic flexibility
- Give hope!
- Having champions who reflect core values
- Understand and check the influence of gangs
- Understand diversity

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Darlington County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	4	2	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	2	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	3	3	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	5	1	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	4	2	0	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	4	1	0	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	5	0	0	1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	5	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	5	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	5	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	5	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	5	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	5	0	0	1

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Great job!

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Participated In Survey 6

[illegible][illegible]

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	1	6

Small Group Discussion Questions Dillon County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Communities in schools
- Partnership with businesses East, Latta, LV DHS JVM
- Gordon Mentoring Program (Lunch Buddy)
- Partner with the county/city recreation-DHS, Gordon, JVM gyms city soccer field sharing facilities
- Community TV Channel 19
- After school Programs
- Gordon Family Night Slam

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Poverty in Dillon County
- Education is low on their (parents) priority list
- Quality teachers
- Every student cannot be proficient and advanced
- Facilities
- School could offer an incentive for teachers to reach a pre-planned goal
- Student needs
 1. Technology
 2. Remediation
 3. Breaking the cycle(lack of education in the home)
- Education level of parents
- Daytime adult education
 1. transportation
- aging facilities
- teacher retention teacher salaries/pay schedule
- quality of life
- South Carolina interpretation of NCLB

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground?

- Better facilities
- More business partnerships
- Grant application
- Community leadership group to help with teacher retention and recruitment and to reward good teachers
- Foster pride in our school system
- Get churches involved
- Partner with churches
- Partner with other agencies such as DSS, etc.
- Civic organizations
- Communicate with elected officials
- Communicate with county officials

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Talk to legislators and school advocates
- School volunteers
- Mentoring programs

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Dillon County

People Signed In **19**

Participated In Survey **9**

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	6	2	1	0	0	0	9
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	3	2	0	0	0	9
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	5	4	0	0	0	0	9
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	3	6	0	0	0	0	9
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	7	0	0	0	0	9
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	3	5	1	0	0	0	9

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	9	0	0	0	9

The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	9	0	0	0	9
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	9	0	0	0	9
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	7	1	0	1	9
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	8	0	0	1	9
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	9	0	0	0	9
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	9	0	0	0	9

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Keep in mind start and stop times.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	9

Small Group Discussion Questions

Dorchester County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- EC Programs are strong
- Businesses and schools partnering up

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Isolation
- Learning as separate entities
- Lack of training and early parent training
- Lack of family adhesiveness
- Can't get parents involved
- Family structures weak
- Not many departments in the SDE know what the other is doing
- Different philosophies coming down the pike with both being expected to be used in the classroom
- Growth (Seat Availability)
- Communicate need for testing

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Get whole community involved
- Recognize successes in church and businesses
- Find key family people and connect
- Give them a stake to offer in child's well being
- Involve businesses to utmost degree
- Make good connections
- Find ways to support families where they need it and when they need it
- Involve kids directly in Big Picture of business-The top students need motivation
- Push hard for groups of students who excel to develop avenues to reach higher
- Limit church times (extended day)
- Bring the community into the schools
- Use seniors to get more involved in discipline and reading
- Neighborhood learning
- After school meetings

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Talk to teachers and get involved
- Learn about the different learning styles (Audio, Manual, Tech., etc.)

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Dorchester County

People Signed In 31

Participated In Survey 7

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	2	5	0	0	0	0	7
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	1	5	0	1	0	0	7
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	2	3	2	0	0	0	7
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	2	3	1	0	0	7
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	1	2	2	2	0	0	7
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	2	3	2	0	0	0	7

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	7	0	0	0	7
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	7	0	0	0	7

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	7	0	0	0	7
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	3	4	0	0	7
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	7	0	0	0	7
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	7	0	0	0	7
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	5	2	0	0	7

Comments

Very informative meeting

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More attendance by business representatives

Get letters out sooner so that people have more time to RSVP and schedule time to come

More time for questions

Informative letter could have defined "Common Ground" and given an overview of what the agenda would include & the outcomes to be achieved

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
4	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

Small Group Discussion Questions

Edgefield County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Educational Summit
- Advisory Councils
- SACS Self Study
- School improvement councils
- PTAs
- Churches sponsoring after-school tutorial program
- Long-range, strategic planning
- School districts reaching out to include the community
- Growing Adult Education Program

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parental involvement
- Qualified teachers
- Socio-Economics
- Community Involvement
- Communication
- Students not involved in faith based programs
- Personal agendas
- Lack of pre-school experiences
- Not reaching many parents
- School has become the 'gatekeeper' for responsibilities of children (medical, dental, etc.)
- Blame game
- Socio-Economic issues

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Get involved
- Listen to schools
- Educate citizens (adults)
- Follow Thru
- Don't disappoint students
- Read statistics about what works
- Visit or schools
- Get on the same bus
- Become proactive
- Coordinate school/community activities so people aren't torn between so many activities
- Mentors-businesses work out release time
- Establish reading centers thru faith based organizations
- Tutorial programs in churches and schools
- Apathy-Adults who are not literate
- Increase teacher pay
- Improve community/school relations

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Commit

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Edgefield County

People Signed In 14

Participated In Survey 14

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	8				1	14
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	8	5				1	14
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	8	5				1	14
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	6	6	1			1	14
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	7	6				1	14
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	6				2	14

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	12	1		1	14

The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	12		2		14
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	14				14
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	10	3		1	14
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	11	1		2	14
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	13			1	14
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	9	3		2	14

Comments

Very good meeting.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More discussion and exchange of ideas between the attendees who represent different perspectives.

Have all present introduce themselves to entire group.-Name and role in the community, education, or organization representing.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
10	1	2				1					14

Small Group Discussion Questions Fairfield County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- New Career Center
- Facilities renovations
- Faith-based education opportunities
- Work Keys initiatives (27 states we are now)
- Parent resource center
- Adult ed. programs
- Technology night classes
- Dual credit classes
- Partners w/ midlands Tech/USC
- Tutoring and after school programs
- Transit system
- 1st steps program
- training done at least four or more times a year for child care providers
- six or more child care facilities
- Red Ribbon activities
- Arts Program
- Teen institute
- Distance learning
- Work Keys grant
- Facility improvement /curriculum improvement
- Carious diversity presentation
- Ethnic meals
- Behavioral health partnership
- BEP
- Community service projects
- Educate the “whole child”
- SRO – Program
- Parenting resource rooms
- Computer labs/access
- Active boards
- Laptops
- ITV/ETV
- DELC Center

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parent involvement
- Schools are not parent friendly
- Child care for after-school adult programs
- Transportation
- Communications
- Motivation
- Teacher retention
- Not enough elective dual credit @ high school or career center
- Relationship between high school and career center
- Not enough is being done
- Transportation(no public)
- Housing
- Education in low poverty division
- Lack of resource equity
- Teen age pregnancy
- High unemployment rate
- Facilities-space
- Student behavior
- Travel to school (distance)
- Lack of adult education
- Lack of mentors and teachers
- Classroom management
- Support for teachers by administration
- Proper materials/resources
- Pleasant work place
- Parental support
- Caring about the child
- No pride/unity
- Media
- New career center
- Low expectations
- Loss of generation
- Education apathy
- Discipline in the classroom
- Drugs
- pregnancy
- Crime
- Student self esteem

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Make parents active stakeholders
- Expand adult ed. – program offerings to include fringes (transportation, childcare, etc.)
- All schools working together w/total community
- Make students stakeholders
- More rigorous curriculum across the board-reconfiguring the school day, address the school day. (Saturday academics, (summer school, etc.)
- Combining existing resources
- More community involvement to include faith based organizations.
- Communication
- Parental involvement
- Higher education within Fairfield County
- Continue joint meeting
- Include faith – based community
- Hold people accountable/everyone
- (legislators, administration, parents, etc.)
- financial community
- promote “positive”
- community support
- with school district partnership
- teachers/principals
- live in community

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Volunteer at school
- Become a coach or mentor for students
- Participate in the community

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Fairfield County

People Signed In 24

Participated In Survey 16

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	6	6	1	0	2	1	16
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	9	1	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	9	6	1	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	9	5	1	0	0	1	16
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	11	4	0	0	0	1	16
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	12	3	0	0	0	1	16

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	12	2	0	2	16
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	16	0	0	0	16

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	15	1	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	15	1	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	14	2	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	12	2	0	2	16
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	14	1	0	1	16

Comments

Need more time

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Include parent/ youth!!!

Provide figures for Fairfield County

Plan for follow -up; what's next?

More time to work on community problems and etc.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
7	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	3	19

Small Group Discussion Questions Florence County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- SIC
- EEDA (Education Economic Development Act)
- Local School Boards
- Legislative
- Mayor's Coalition
- Faith Based Initiatives
- Civic Groups
- Liaison between charter schools
- Southern Accreditation
- School Foundation
- Teacher Organization
- High Schools That Work
- Making Middle Grades Work
- Partnership with Colleges and Tech
- Parent Center
- Round Table Discussions
- Early Home-Family Strengthening
- Expanding early childhood programs both 4k as well as 0-3 yr old
- Focus on getting students on grade level by grade 3
- Ninth grade academy
- High schools that work
- All Florence BOE meet quarterly to share success and challenges
- Community improvement
- Adult education consolidated programs
- Magic Johnson Center
- One Stop Center
- Gear-Up
- The school foundation
- Expansion of dual enrollment college and high school credits
- National network of partnership schools
- Expansion of after school programs to neighborhoods
- After school program in Orangeburg and Florence between religious community and the school
- Recruitment Fair (National)
- Certification of special education
- Facility study
- Parent center
- Reading initiative

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Maintaining Commitment
- Lack of willingness to change
- Parental Involvement
- Aging Facilities
- Lack of ownership
- Lack of appropriate staff members
- Accredited teachers
- Certification Restrictions
- Cultural differences
- Money (need a better funding plan)
- Low tax base
- Building money
- Grants
- Bricks and mortar
- Community support
- Better understanding of needs of schools
- Between business and schools
- Not enough business partners
- Those that love the “Bad News”
- Need a business plan
- Need a better communication plan
- EEDA (under funded)
- Dual enrollment not listed on report cards
- Lack of certified teachers
- Cultural diversity training (for best classroom results)
- Technology evenly distributed
- Aging facilities
- Overcrowded classrooms
- Increase in number of retirees
- Significant percentage of teachers retiring
- Economic disparities (between districts) i.e funding
- Absence of public knowledge of the issue (educate the public)

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Community shared goals
- Develop ways and means to engage all partners necessary for success of each grade
- Develop a master plan, update annually and communicate to entire community
- Develop ways that require family participation in their child's education
- Support effective implementation of EDDA
- Communicate between business and schools
- Communicate between schools and parents
- Improve communication
- Reach everybody
- Teach involvement
- Improve technology and access to.....
- Commit to public education
- Get involved
- Educate the community
- Public awareness
- Accountability (accept responsibility , ownership)
- Continue to carry out initiative
- Delivery of the message

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Make a personal effort to remain informed related to your educational improvement and needs
- Get involved at the local school level, to do what you can to help
- Support local and state education improvement efforts.(focus on positive, look for possibilities vs. limitations)
- Get involved with your child or grandchild's education, accept personal responsibility
- Commit yourself to your own continuous education improvement (ex. Life long learner)

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Florence County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	8	10	2	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	14	1	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	10	9	1	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	5	13	2	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	13	1	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	7	11	2	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	19	0	0	1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	18	1	0	1
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	19	1	0	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	20	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	19	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	19	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	18	1	0	1

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

A little more discussion of barriers with Q & A

More time

It was excellent no suggestions for improvement

Knowledge of resources

More information before attending-perhaps a meeting packet sent to all participants prior to seminar

More of the "How" not just the "What"

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
15	2	0	2	0	0	0	0

Participated In Survey 20

[illegible][illegible]

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	1	20

Small Group Discussion Questions

Georgetown County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Tutorial Program-4 Year Grant
- Computer lab
- Reading comprehension-Accountable Challenge
- YMCA-Cost Constraint
- Updated and 'New' Schools
- Success by 6 (TUW) – to be prepared by 1st Grade certified day care centers
- 1st Steps Program
- More money being allocated to schools
- Keeping with goals to lower the student teacher ratio
- Freshman Academy
- IB Program
- Law enforcement providing information on Gang Awareness and providing more of a friendly presence in the schools
- Job shadowing programs
- Adding vocational classes to the high schools operated by the technical colleges (dual enrollment)
- Cooperation among school board and superintendent
- Foundation support
- Carvers Bay High is a community center- this is also occurring throughout the district
- Smaller learning communities
- Schools of study
- Freshman Focus Course
- Middle Grades Matter
- ASPIRE training program for principals
- Literacy training program thru the Citadel
- TRIO Programs – GEAR UP initiative, Upward Bound
- College of Charleston Internships
- Center for Strategic Partnerships in Education
- WISE
- Foundation for Excellence Schools – Johns Island
- Local school host C of C teachers – writing lesson plans
- C of C recognizes teacher graduates
- SC State/Church partnerships- Federal Land grant provides computers
- Call Me Mister
- Community groups providing support (St. Matthews)
- Homework centers
- Wings for Kids
- Public relations person at school
- Partnerships: Professional Development Schools
- Business-Education Partnerships (Career Pathways, Principal for a Day, IN-School Banking, Education Foundation)
- PTA, School Improvement Councils
- Junior Achievement, Volunteers for America

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- After school transportation to daycare/after school programs
- Health care
- Teaching vs. Administrative duties

- Poverty – Schools mirror of Community
- Technical Courses (Construction) – Structure- Required Curriculum's (Vocational)
- Technical colleges moving away from technical fields and moving towards the community college format
- Need a better way to gauge the interest and abilities of students and provide training in those areas
- Concentrate on the basics and provide the backbone for success
- Less paperwork for teachers and administrators
- Separation of students who perform lower than others (Lowers the self-esteem of those that score lower) – Holding others back who can excel
- School choice in private sector is serious threat
- Lack of political support at state level
- Lack of long-term commitment and focus
- Attitude
- Abandonment of public school system by elected leadership
- Lack of follow through
- Equity of resources
- Lack of knowledge of existing resources
- Lack of coordination / use of resources
- Fear of children
- African American – fear of children/school
- Inaccessible system
- Teachers not willing to take a public stand
- Need to vote
- Not supporting families – schools seem to be keeping kids away from parents
- Lack of quality, out of school activities (especially middle school)
- School district structure
- State government
- Resistance to change
- Micromanagement by school board
- Not sufficiently driven by data
- Silos separate education entities

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Health care
- Economic Development
- Parent Involvement
- Gender only Core Classes
- Enhance Daycare Opportunities
- Money
- Getting the family and guardians involved in the school lives of the student
- Start tutorial programs through community churches, groups, etc.
- CBO's get involved or volunteer in schools
- CBO's provide life skills workshops
- CBO's providing parenting workshops (expand) and create communities awareness of programs
- Regular communication about school progress, especially in non-election years
- Strong leadership at every level
- Non-Profit groups working with our 4 year olds
- YMCA/Georgetown after-school and summer programs
- SOS and their teen program (Teen pregnancy, substance abuse, etc.)
- Be Positive
- Strong community platform support of public education

- Need to value education
- Pilot more models- research based
- Engage parents, community
- Promote Informed voters
- Collaboration/Coalition of existing resources
- Turn the Charleston Median around!
- Increased partnerships between business and education
- Stakeholders recognizing value of education to community
- Change school district structure to clarify lines of authority

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Get involved in local schools
- Stay informal
- Mentor/volunteer
- Vote
- Encourage young people to enter teaching profession
- Become a committed member of one of the CBO provided services
- Increase our visibility in schools
- Positive involvement in schools (volunteer, school advisory councils, etc.)
- Communicate with board members
- Parents need to take responsibility for their children
- Volunteer with non-profit groups that support education (Miss Ruby's Kids, Adult Literacy, SOS, library, etc.)
- Get others to vote
- Participate
- Support teachers, principals, etc.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Georgetown County

People Signed In 22

Participated In Survey 13

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	6	7	0	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	6	1	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	7	6	0	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	4	8	1	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	5	6	2	0	0	0	13
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	7	6	0	0	0	0	13

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	12	0	1	0	13
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	13	0	0	0	13

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	12	0	0	1	13
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	13	0	0	0	13
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	11	1	0	1	13
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	13	0	0	0	13
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	12	1	0	0	13

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Coffee

Invite more parents and school board members

Have more interaction between the people present about issues presented

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
5	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	13

Small Group Discussion Questions Greenville County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Transitioning economy-pressure on education
- Building of new facilities
- Dual credit/ credit recovery
- Academics/ school choice
- IB/ Magnet
- Foreign language opportunity
- Teacher accountability/ teacher/ administration quality
- MAP testing
- Quality / learning (chamber) continuous
- Technology/individualized (laptops)
- Communication is better
- Distance learning (sex ed/ science)
- Twilight programs
- Wireless schools
- Teacher cadets/ reimbursement for teachers
- Staff per program
- ESOL Programs/Parent Staff Development
- Celebrating cultures
- Variety of community focus/ support organizations
- Child Find, CDS
- RTI Response to Intervention
- Success by six
- Shining Stars
- Faith based tutoring/ NHS, Flour
- United Way – HYS
- Alliance for Ed
- POE (Chamber, Leadership)
- Building program
- Closing the Gap
- Graduate Greenville
- Lifelong learning
- Family Learning in CDCs
- PTA
- School to Work
- Community in school
- Urban League
- Teacher Forum

- Professional Development
- Center for Ed. Equity
- Technology Initiatives
- Refresh- Title/ laptops-parent use
- Teacher improvement weekends
- Building programs
- Roper
- Updating tech for students
- Career and art centers
- 1st steps program
- parent education
- map testing
- Teacher Evaluation -Past Pas A
- Middle school certificate. No – child left behind
- Virtual school
- Comp family literacy GED Program
- Parent university by Urban League
- Community emphasis on reading activities
- Peace Center IDEA Program
- Roper Mountain Science Center
- One unified school district
- Strong PTA's
- Parents as teachers
- Family literacy
- Child care/ success by six
- Parent / teacher conferences
- EED in middle schools (career planning)
- Alliance for quality education
- Facilities program
- U.W. Community Impact agenda and partner agencies
- Graduate Greenville
- Black churches-Back to school / Stay in school
- Charter schools / magnets, IB, etc.
- Vision 2005 Education task force
- Business community involvement
- Shining Stars-Teacher recruitment
- Professional development opportunity
- Quality of life
- Public library system

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- Transitioning economy
- Alignment / duplication of effort
- Better need for vertical / horizontal planning thru out community
- Same voice?
- Family structure/ culture
- Not all see continuing education as a goal
- Education not a priority – “real reasons”
- “disconnect” w/parents from schools
- Bad news is >prone to get out, on going vehicle needed for good news!
- Language barriers (parents)
- Same people on every committee
- Time
- Parental support conflicting priority
- Apathy
- Accountability system (federal level) (perception fact)
- Lack of communication
- Overlap of organizations
- Breadth of responsibilities changing
- Cultural differences
- Poverty
- ESOL
- Teacher shortage n critical areas(science, math, EEDA Specialties)
- Teacher prep programs (higher ed)
- Legislative and State Board action w/o planning or knowing impact (dual credit UGP)
- Excessive Bureaucracy Litigation (Special Ed.)
- Gap in achievement within state
- Lack of state funding for transportation.
- Parental apathy
- Appropriate facilities for 3 to 5 yr olds
- Educational jargon
- Business community, faith also language barrier (break this)
- Literacy Family and adult
- Low expectations
- Socioeconomic barriers
- Choices-too much competition for attention.
- Negative media
- Some tech interferes with skill learning and problem solving abilities
- Attitude of general population toward importance of public education
- Lack of awareness of choices/ opportunities
- Lack of access to opportunity

- Competition for funds among educational institutions
- Transition of community
- Negative perception of school system
- Low salaries for educators
- Challenges in teaching
- Lack of community resources
- Competition from private schools
- Lack of makes being attracted to education
- Certification process requirements out of date
- Lack of coordination
- Cultural and societal values
- Not enough funding for certain programs such as 4k
- Lack of follow through
- Slow to respond to changing needs – funding priorities

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- All organizations look thru the 5 lenses of Common Ground-no “new” organization needed.
- Make family involvement a priority
- Reading instruction-Priority
- All learning/testing packages must have diagnostic info.
- Remove barriers within the system that get in the way of students motivation, responsibility and learning.
- Alignments of organizations to solve issues (Chamber Leadership) (Connection) (unity of effort)
- End unfunded mandates
- More public / private partner
- Student ownership
- Positive, productive communication with legislature
- PSA outreach to everywhere urban, etc.
- Parents take responsibility
- Positive communication
- Money for transportation affect community involvement
- New diagnostic tool besides PACT for feed back on student performance.
- Teacher aids for above kindergarten
- To actively involve business in process of education
- Bolster our pre-k program so that students are adequately prepared for k-5
- Transportation/bus system scheduling/busing
- Local control of funding (local resources discussion)
- Salaries
- Pay for performance/merit pay

- After school programs
- Transportation to reach programs
- Middle school opportunities for career centers
- Community awareness/ promote value of education
- Longer school day
- Develop local agenda among school board, business community, parents, etc.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Greenville County

People Signed In 65

Participated In Survey 36

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	13	21	2	0	0	0	36
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	23	5	0	0	2	36
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	19	15	2	0	0	0	36
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	8	14	10	2	0	2	36
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	9	16	8	2	0	1	36
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	10	17	3	3	1	2	36

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	26	0	9	1	36
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	30	2	3	1	36

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	31	2	2	1	36
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	27	5	4	0	36
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	33	1	2	0	36
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	34	0	0	2	36
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	27	5	0	4	36

Comments

Learned a lot!

Would like to have a copy of the power point.

Meeting went too fast. Too much information to cover in such short time frame.

Was excellent-enjoyed semi round table discussion.

Change nothing

Thank you, it was effective. I hope we can now follow through!

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Better layout of room for break outs-maybe smaller break out groups

No need for long explanation of Poper Mountain Science Center 15 minutes and still no meeting has started

Different room for pull out sessions

More conducive area for group work.

Include a youth council for their input, as well as more parents.

Meeting should have been held in a conference room. Couldn't see or hear most of my group's response.

Graphics to hand out to participants.

A facilitator for each group. Room for each group to discuss each question. Good comments were made but, it was difficult to hear.

More input from business and community leaders instead of a teacher/ education led panel.

More community leaders/educators

Clearer information and slower slides.

There needs to be a focus on what is wrong with the education system and what we can do to change how we teach in the classroom.

Better seating for the groups.

"Respect" & Foster role of families" Yet we will amend constitution of State to discriminate against (not respect) families of some of our students.

This will have unintended consequences on the health and safety of some to our youth.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
20	4	1	5	0	0	6	0	0	1	1	38

Small Group Discussion Questions Greenwood County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- High School/College partnerships
- Articulation
- Dual enrollment
- Career planning, goal attainment
- Business and industry involvement/support of EEDA
- Family support (also a barrier/concern)
- After school
- GED – parent literacy
- Even Start
- First Steps
- 4k programs
- business partners
- Faith – based activities
- Mentoring programs
- ESOL
- Youth Court
- SAT Prep
- Technology
- AP-Dual Credit
- Magnet school
- Alternative schools
- WS has appointed a resource (person) to ID and assist at-risk students- focus on individual needs
- 50-ID at- risk status by category (discipline, grades, attendance, attitude) so that needs can be met. (Work Keys)
- industry is starting a Work Keys assessment to ID and match skill sets / jobs for 9th graders
- Community Plus
- 21st Century Gants
- Child development classes (k-4)
- Gleams/Head Start
- Healthy Learners
- Cornerstone/ Sexual Trauma Availability
- Legacy
- Communities in Schools
- Healthy Families

- Success By 6
- Case Management
- First Steps
- After school/ Community Tutoring

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Communication
- Economics, labor force
- Funding from all levels
- Language, cultural barriers
- Media support
- Finances
- Teacher recruitment
- Resistance to change
- Value of education
- Family break-down
- Lazy attitudes
- Open communication and participation (awareness) between education and industry
- Resources – money, people
- Lack of parental commitment
- Lack of realistic view of student abilities(accurate assessment, open communication and honesty
- Don't understand the competition for jobs
- Limited communication between agencies
- Limited understanding of the needs
- Geographic distances in communities
- Economic issues/ limited growth
- Minimal low cost/ affordable extra curriculum activities for youth.
- Unwillingness to accept change.
- Failure to accept responsibilities
- Parenting skills

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Be vocal and active
- Raise awareness
- Analyze our data and make informed decisions
- improve communication (e-mail, newsletters o others
- increase community's functional literacy
- change adult schedules to fit students
- study financial allocations for redirection
- recruitment incentives-bonuses
- require parental involvement-support
- promote education
- involvement of total community
- educate the community (senior citizens, businesses, couples w/no children – those groups who feel they are non-stake holders)
- Honest communication with students-abilities, preparation, job – availability.
- Work certification program
- Emphasize technology and industry internships.
- Visionary leadership in the community with a commitment for growth.
- A community willing to accept change
- Recruit, retain quality teachers who make connections to students
- System of communication
- Parent involvement

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Greenwood County

People Signed In 22

Participated In Survey 17

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	7	8	0	2	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	11	0	2	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	9	6	0	2	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	6	9	0	2	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	4	10	1	1	0	1	17
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	10	0	0	1	0	17

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	15	1	1	0	17
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	13	2	2	0	17

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	16	0	1	0	17
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	14	3	0	0	17
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	16	1	0	0	17
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	14	3	0	0	17
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	11	5	0	1	17

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More people participate.

Provide overall PACTdata not just various demographics. Identify action plans for improvement not just words.

Improve status report to better communicate status/ status goal clearly show proficiency vs. goal

More questions and answers on role of oversight committee.

Need more than two hours.

Give people more opportunity to dialogue.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
14	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	17

Small Group Discussion Questions Hampton County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Report card pick up days (11-7)
- Schools have technology available for evenings (teaching parents)
- Parent nights – orientations – family nights
- CDEPP classes (full day pre-K) (serve all pre-K)
- College credit in high school (dual credit)
- Virtual high school and credit recovery program
- Alternative school (full day)
- Sign on bonuses
- Active booster clubs
- After- school programs
- Parenting classes
- USC-B / faith based / school partnership – “Boot Up” HD2
- All day pre-K
- JAG program
- Technology classes
- Credit recovery / retrieval
- ALP
- Academy of reading / math
- Adult ed
- Dual credit
- “Home Grown” Teachers
- After school (21st century , academic assistance
- 9 full day classes (5 district 10 (4-district 2)
- 99 percent students are in pre-K
- All identified and those chosen by parents are in full day
- Volunteers / leaders and readers
- Procedures to prevent dropout / alternative schools
- Parents and families working together
- Programs based on research
- We have three reading intervention teachers
- 21st Century Grant
- reading first initiative
- HOST (mentoring program)
- Adult ed. program
- Boys and girls club
- CDEPT (pre-school)
- Volunteer in school parent programs

- Agencies partnership
- After hours computer programs
- Opportunities in arts
- Adult ed. – various times am and pm to meet parent's schedules
- Technology centers open at night
- Feeds senior citizens
- Back pack program – Fennell
- Shared garden
- Schools used for community events
- Faith based organizations involved
-

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parents having to work two jobs to support family
- Working parents out of town (HHI) (leave @ 4-5am and return 9-10pm)
- Transportation
- Lack of motivation and lack of respect for education
- No recognition for schools for moving students forward
- Find jobs / employment for community (parents can work closer to home.)
- Support efforts of all educators
- Use all stakeholders
- Community activities for students to help encourage appropriate behaviors.
- Transportation system
- Poverty
- Transportation
- Geographic isolation
- Limited job opportunities
- Cultural differences (i.e. language)
- Education levels
- Cultural exposure
- Teacher recruitment / retention
- Low tax base
- No technology center/ out dated schools
- Getting parents involved
- Set up programs geared toward students of other languages
- Classes for adults
- Personnel
- Funds
- Accountability and evaluations
- Loss of programs

- Limited resources
- ILLITERACY rate
- Geographical barriers within the district
- Location
- Unemployment
- Substance abuse
- Lack of communication
- Teenage pregnancy
- Single parent families
- Low self esteem
- Distrust in political system
- Lack of value placed on ed.
- Hands tied with discipline

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Increase higher education expectations for teacher prep. Encourage higher education to better prepare teachers
- Encourage parents to be proactive/ lead institution through faith based
- Stronger partnership between schools/ economic development.
- Advocate for equity funding at state level
- Better transportation system
- Implement mentoring programs
- Volunteers
- Faith based groups
- Cultural sensitivity
- Partnerships
- Team intervention (Educators, New life, principals, parents)
- Provide opportunities to address at risk students
- Students need reading foundation
- Use assessments to differentiate instruction
- Create “strong” school improvement councils and PTO’s
- Qualified program personnel
- More diversity trained personnel
- Instill “Failure is not an option” into school personnel.
- Increase or strengthen the use of school counselor
- Greater degree of coordination between student education and employment opportunities.
- More community involvement
- Give real support to teachers

- Build social skills
- Need more parental support
- More faith based involvement
- Agitate for equity in funding

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form Hampton County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	2	16	5	1
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	3	17	2	2
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	5	17	1	1
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	5	13	4	1
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	9	9	4	2
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	7	11	2	1

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	18	3	0	3
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	22	0	0	2
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	22	0	0	2
21	21	1	0	2
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	22	0	0	2
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	22	0	0	2
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	17	5	0	2

Comments

I only found out about the meeting one day before the meeting was held.

If the time was a little later for working parent or tele-com cable or broadcast to the other schools for parents t

I feel mor knowledgable about the EOC.
Inadequate time for questions and discussions.
I appreciate what Dr. Pruitt had to say and wished we could have heard more.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

We need more parents. We will not do what we need to without them.
Time should have beenset later in the evening.
Be genuine and sinvere about the delemma facing our schools, families and children. It will take collaboration
I wished EOC Committee members felt that the meeting was important enough to actually "show up"
Hold meeting at a time more convenient to community.
Having parents present
Let everyone ask there questions !!!
Later time so more people could come. More time for you to hear our views.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
14	4	1	10	0	3	0	0

People Signed In 32
Participated In Survey 24

Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
0	0	24
0	0	24
0	0	24
0	1	24
0	0	24
1	2	24

Totals
24
24
24
24
24
24
24

that can't or don't want to travel.

n from all aspects of the community.

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	1	33

Small Group Discussion Questions

Horry County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Connect Program-Targeting up coming 9th grades at risk for quitting school
- Targeting AP
- Looking at ways to get children out of self-contained classrooms
- Pre-K Program
- First Steps
- Volunteers/Tutors
- Professional Development
- School-to-work Career initiatives
- First Book/Dolly Parton
- Spanish teachers in all elementary schools
- P.B.I.S./Life Skills/SIG Grant/Character Ed.
- Flexible work scheduling for school participation
- Mentoring Programs (Businesses, Civic, Churches, CCA)
- Alternatives to traditional high school models
- Same school home-school coordinators
- Newsletters Back to school program
- TV-12 Channel
- HGTV comes to some campuses/students/Adults
- Early college
- Family learning center in Conway
- Staff development
- TERI Program (State)
- Business Partnership
- On-line education intranet
- Geographic growth
- Maintaining of school websites
- Literary Council is seeing that the SD is dedicated to the growth of pre-k students
- Progress and monitor students achievements through MAP
- Outreach programs (Adult Education, GED)
- New Connect program for middle school students
- Early college program
- Scholars Program/ CAP Program
- HCS/CCU and HGTC Partnerships
- Mentoring program/Coastal
- DARE (Vocational training)
- Friendship House
- YMCA – after school programs
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- New online research links for kids (DISCUSS, EBSCO, etc.)
- HCS Access Channel
- New facilities
- Reward like Gold & Silver
- Rewarding National Board teachers
- Palmer and Cay Salary study/raise
- Leadership classes—prospective leader groups
- Superintendents Advisory Council
- Academy for Academics and Technology

- New technologies academy
- Board commitment to increase teacher salaries, business shadowing, and Business Education Partnerships
- Home-School Coordinators
- Parenting Workshops
- Providing day care and food for night meetings
- Outreach and Adult Education
- Computer classes for parents
- Family Reading Night

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Making parents comfortable/welcome as a part of our schools
- Reach out in community (Retirees, Churches)
- Retaining cost of living, recruit, demands, etc.
- Need partnership with area colleges
- Money
- Transportation
- Demographics---age, culture, geography
- Rapid Growth—ESOL Growth
- Managing and evaluation initiatives and mandates
- Technology Divide
- Time
- Meeting A.Y.P.
- Changing the culture of the community
- Timing of functions do to service industry
- Meeting the needs of families

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Funding
- Better communication between agencies
- Committed to making education a priority
- Sharing resources
- Parenting/Mentoring, more exposure
- Share the good news along with what still needs to be achieved – look forward
- Keep community abreast of the data
- Become business partners
- Release time for employees to be in schools
- Advocate and celebrate education
- Highlight education and schools in the news
- Bring industry expertise into classrooms
- More collaboration with private, 4K, and public schools

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Community support to break tradition
- Join BE2 to mentor
- Provide training for tutoring
- Register to vote
- Donate time for services
- Be advocates for public education
- Be informed

- Communicate with legislators, school personnel, board members, community leaders, etc.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Horry County

People Signed In 39

Participated In Survey 25

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	12	13	0	0	0	0	25
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	14	10	1	0	0	0	25
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	10	13	1	0	0	1	25
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	7	15	3	0	0	0	25
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	16	3	0	0	0	25
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	11	12	1	0	0	1	25

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	24	0	1	0	25
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	24	1	0	0	25

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	24	1	0	0	25
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	21	4	0	0	25
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	23	2	0	0	25
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	24	0	0	1	25
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	17	4	0	4	25

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Break out activity time too short

Introductions of persons not clear

Questions and comments time too short

School districts that have access to cable channels should be able to telecast the presentation

Questions and comments time too short

Would have liked to see more business/community representatives

Have each group concentrate on one question. You could be more thorough that way.

Point out what I can do to reach the community and parents

Would have been good to have a bit more advance notice of what was coming and expected at the meeting.

Group had trouble finding which 5 responsibilities of the Common Ground mattered

Being very busy, needed a couple of notices

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
12	9	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	25

Small Group Discussion Questions Jasper County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- We have extended day programs for students and Boys and Girls Club.
- We are building two new facilities
- We have recruitment incentives
- We have staff development for teachers
- Pre-K program
- We have technology coaches
- We have mentoring program for new teachers
- We have an alternative and vocational program
- Developers are setting aside land for new schools in the areas in which they develop
- New schools under construction.
- Low wealth law suit set aside money for pre-K program.
- After – school tutorial program
- Technology assistance and program
- Career clusters
- Providing more services for ELS students
- Alternate ed. programs (ACE / TCL, EEDA, USC, OSHER – Adult Ed/ Cont. Ed.)
- Upgrading facilities (All new P2O) State of art technology.
- New Curriculum
- Early childhood advisory committee
- First Steps – Enhancing day cares
- Partnering with technical colleges
- Jasper County Neighbors United (per – school and after – school)
- Recognizing cultural diversity and values
- Programs that acknowledge academic and artistic potentials
- Involving faith – based communities
- Schools sponsor “Parent Nights” for reading, math, technology, etc.
- Parent university
- Scholarship grants for teachers to attain advanced degrees
- Center for excellence at USCB
- Virtual classrooms using hand – held computers and mobile technology labs.
- Schools media centers / homework center / after – school programs provide access to computers.

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- Retention of staff
- Parent support
- Transportation
- Community perception of schools and support
- Geography
- Communication between parents and community
- Social, economic, and racial barriers
- Teacher turn – over
- Affordable housing
- Shortage of certified teachers and administration
- Transportation (rural)
- Lack of community activities
- Parental apathy
- Recruitment/ Retention (teachers and administrators)
- Competitive salary
- Diversity of community
- Community apathy
- Communication (parents, teachers, community) external / internal
- Equitable funding (state and local)
- Teacher retention/ accountability
- Community perception of public ed.
- “Latch - key” Children
- Lack of adequate funding for public libraries
- Lack of adequate comprehensive community centers addressing technology, parenting, literacy, community needs, recreation, cultural awareness, celebrations

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- We must provide support to the entire family not just the student. Open facilities to parents for higher education and vocational skills.
- Increase efforts to recruit and retain qualified teachers.
- We need to increase training and staff development for novice teachers.
- Increase support from business community.

- Need to establish a cultural coalition between the community and school.
- Build more community support for schools
- Comprehensive/ capitol plan
- Build a comprehensive recreational program
- Comprehensive volunteer program
- Transportation
- Better incentives (salaries)
- Community support (buy – in public ed., advocates, volunteer)
- School as “center” of community (Adult ed. classes)
- Alternative ways of communication with public (website, cable, newsletters, newspaper, media...)
- Be proactive (funding, state and local officials “truly”)
- Comprehensive community centers
- Business involvement in recruitment and retention of teachers
- Better use of “lottery funds”
- Expanded Wrap – Around Services (Mental Health, Collaborative efforts among agencies, and child and family services.
- Strong volunteer and mentoring programs

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Jasper County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	12	7	1	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	12	7	1	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	16	4	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	11	7	2	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	10	9	1	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	12	8	0	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	20	0	0	0
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	19	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	20	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	19	1	0	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	20	0	0	0
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	17	3	0	0
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	19	1	0	0

Comments

Very insightful for a 2hr. Meeting.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Meeting was very helpful

Could provide opportunity to discuss individual goals.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
11	5	2	2	0	0	3	0

Participated In Survey	20
------------------------	----

[illegible][illegible]

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	0	23

Small Group Discussion Questions Kershaw County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- I can Laptop Project
- Camden Hot Spots
- Business/ Chamber Relationships
- FAC
- Address responsibilities and areas for action
- I CAN Laptop initiative
- Facilities equalization program
- Building Plan.
- Superintendent's goals of addressing competitive pay/ salary packages
- Responsive adult education program with young adult program and serve prisoners
- 4 year old kindergarten at many elementary schools (but not all)
- family nights at elementary/ middle schools
- early childhood development program 25% elementary
- First Steps / head start
- New PROE/FAC – Tech School
- Adult Ed
- New School facilities/ upgrading and renovation facilities
- WorkKeys/ COG
- High School Class Option. Distance/ Virtual Learning
- Student choice in schools
- EEDA -more career counselors
- Lower class size
- Salary study incentive plan(out of state and minority)
- Recreation / school building plan
-

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Students – based instruction
- Need more nurses
- “Good Tomatoes” – teacher contract process earlier
- salary “awareness”

- Need to “perfect” teacher retention (pay, over worked, too many details, etc.
- lives are out of balance
- money
- poverty
- balanced life
- new families, young kids-must make changes
- to many “demands”, many unfunded
- B & I in County
- “ Timely Test Data
- Extended contracts to prepare
- SDE Standards
- So much focus on test scores takes away from other initiatives
- All aspects must come together (businesses, schools, churches, hospitals, etc.) or we don’t have a “connected, contributed person”
- PACT has made educators so accountable but less “punitive” in order to be successful
- Not enough child development centers
- Inadequate health care and nutrition for students (born into poverty)
- Lack of parental involvement
- Rural nature of county
- Lack of public transportation
- Lack of funding
- Limited with aging facilities (especially to handle growth)
- Lack of understanding cultural differences
- Economics targeted
- Political leadership support of public education
- Lack of wealth and job opportunity – concentrated

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- More avenues of “dialog” (like now...) communication
- Involve parents more in student discipline
- Impact KC
- Neighborhood Task Force
- Neighborhood Universities
- Providing alternate educational opportunities
- Increasing faith – based and other community organization involvement in education
- Developing network of organizations
- Increase parental involvement/ accountability. (or parental figure)

- Increase parental confidence. Re-education or educating parents on their rules. (empower parents)
- INVOLVEMENT
- MENTORING
- POLITICAL

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Kershaw County

People Signed In 16

Participated In Survey 16

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	4	11	1	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	12	0	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	8	8	0	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	2	12	2	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	12	0	0	0	2	16
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	4	10	0	0	0	2	16

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	12	0	1	3	16
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	14	0	2	0	16

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	14	0	1	1	16
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	8	4	0	4	16
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	9	5	0	2	16
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	8	4	0	4	16
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	10	2	0	4	16

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Total time insufficient

More public community forum format-like a town meeting on education

Afternoon time was a little tough for folks. Morning or lunch might have attracted larger crowd.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
9	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	17

Community Meetings Evaluation Form Lancaster County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	6	19	1	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	18	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	9	16	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	21	3	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	1	19	6	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	11	10	5	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	26	0	0	0
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	22	1	1	0
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	25	0	1	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	22	1	3	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	23	2	0	1
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	25	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	23	1	0	2

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Need more business leaders.

Early morning meeting.

Time allotted for the Break Out Activity was too short.

Mail out information on Common Ground before the meeting.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
13	3	3	1	0	0	1	1

People Signed In 53
Participated In Survey 26

Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
0	0	26
0	0	24
0	1	26
0	0	25
0	0	26
0	0	26

Totals
26
24
26
26
26
26
26

Media	Other	NR	Total
1	0	3	26

Small Group Discussion Questions

Lancaster County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Freshman Academy
- Improved School Facilities
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- GEAR-UP Program
- First Steps (collaboration with other non-profits)
- HEAP
- Upward Bound
- Expanded # of counselors (Smooth Sailing Program)
- Reach Out & Read; Dolly Parton Imagination Library; Countdown to Kindergarten; FAST; Born To Read
- Geographically-expanded teacher recruitment
- Mentoring program for beginning teachers
- Teacher signing bonuses & competitive salaries
- Strong commitment to technology
- Mentoring program for at-risk students
- OSP @ USCL
- Faith-based initiatives
- Adopt-a-leader/Home child visitor
- 9th Grade Academy
- Student clustering by interest area/ Education and Economic Development Act
- Improved early confidence building in key subjects
- Different motivational tracks
- Increased avenues and communication
- parents involved early
- increased focus and literacy
- 1st Steps – ELOA
- Head Start
- Reading 1st
- E. H. S.
- Ameri Corps
- Library Out Reach
- Gear Up
- Mobile Dental

- Fast – Family Nights
- ESOL/ ESL
- After school
- Parent / Child Home
- Born to Read
- Reach out and Read
- Newspapers in Ed.
- Hope on Hill
- Youth Build Parenting – Barr St. Communication Center
- LEARN TV
- USC-L Program
- TRIO
- Upward Bound
- J. Marion Sims
- LAUGH
- LIFT
- Christian Services
- Principal, teachers, and cadets seeking out pre-school families.
- Talking in communities with other pre-schools as to what kindergarten expects
-

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Lack of / resources
- Lack of finances
- Community attitudes toward the value of education
- Federal micro management of education (teachers spend too much time on reports and paperwork)
- Children being raised by surrogate parents
- Teaching / education not financially lucrative (our “best and brightest” generally do not become teachers)
- High attrition rate for new teachers

- Additional demands placed on schools and teachers due to changing student demographics
- More guidance counselors to assist
- Identify children at risk of dropping out
- remove barriers to pursue vocational study
- encourage all students in all sectors
- create sense of urgency/ contagious “Education/ Graduation” is my goal
- remove barriers for parents we are not reaching
- Re-examine ACCOUNTABILITY METRICS
- “Teaching to the test”
- Testing 5 days in a row – children are too tired
- PACT too late in year – Not vertically aligned
- Having Confederate Memorial Day off interrupts testing
- Field Testing in Middle
- Graduation requirements vs. college entrance are different
- School schedule – mentoring
- Health care not affordable
- Transportation issues
- Economic issues
- Report Card Penalty for 4 yrs.
- Teacher Retention – Mentoring
- Lack alternative Education
- Changing parents perception that senior year in high school should be easy
- Issue of staffing and security in buildings and transportation
- Gear-up program

List the five most important things you community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Spear head a community initiative to address the challenges and problems which exist
- Utilize local and national foundations (grants, etc.) to create, support and expand programs tat foster school retention and educational success

- Better marketing and PR about “success stories “ and better/ more comprehensive response to uninformed criticism
- Expansion of existing programs to reach isolated/ under served areas of the county/ community
- Remove unnecessary administration/ burdens for teachers, principal, leaders, counselors
- Utilize technology to increase “teacher time” / increase efficient communications and administration.
- Increase the use of schools as Community HUB – re-examine
- Neighborhood school / church partnerships – cost impact?
- Focus on what is best for the child and models that work (small class size, loyalty to schools, parent outreach
- Reserve local governance funding formula
- Bring all community members into our schools (i.e., festivals, faculty lunch by church, Veterans Day, etc.)
- Find a way to cement the school / community bonds.
- Parent involvement
- Emphasize the value of education
- Better collaboration between groups in community.
- Flexible transportation is important
- Technology access for education is important
- Corporate support thru human resources for technology, money, etc.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- volunteer in schools
- Principals Choice Awards
- Highlight “Good Things Getting Done”

Small Group Discussion Questions Laurens County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- After school Programs- CHAMPS, Champions, LINKS, Montessori
- Growth in upper Laurens Co.
- Implementing EEDA
- Piedmont TEL- articulation agreements
- Balanced literacy L55/ Rdg. First 56
- Passage of \$48 M Bond Ref.
- First Steps Involvement
- Parenting Programs
- Intervention Programs
- CHAMPS
- Twilight school
- Virtual school (middle and high school)
- Family literacy programs (life long learning)
- SREB / EEBA Involvement (clusters, pathways, etc.)
- Chamber of commerce endorsement and support as #1 community issue
- Made efforts dual enrollment AP classes
- Collaboration from PC with student teachers
- New schools in district 55 and 56.
- First Steps- Every child ready for school.
- MAP Testing
- Increased efforts for parent involvement
- LCHCS Outreach
- Imagination Library
- High school transition to higher ed. to careers
- Dedicated educators
- Ninth grade academy
- Career clusters
- Job shadowing
- Literacy coaches
- Career specialists
- Credit recovery
- Virtual school
- GED programs with childcare available
- Parenting program for students
- Straight street
- Faith community

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Births to people under 21
- Poor housing –Rental property
- Unemployment
- APATHY
- Political Arenas
- Funding Mandates with little or no money
- Financial resources from state and local agencies/ sources
- Population (large percentage) has a lack of appreciation or importance for education and educational issues
- Lack of ability to communicate with percentage of the community.
- Addressing and “real” impacts on teen pregnancy.
- Increase or lack of parental involvement.
- Mandates (legislature)
- Definition of Success
- Teacher pay/ shortage
- Apathy
- Poverty
- Loss of industry
- Loss of community schools
- Language as a barrier
- Culture as a barrier
- Growing poor population
- Availability of childcare
- Teacher recruitment/retention
- Teacher/pupil ratio
- Generational poverty
- literacy

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Increase literacy
- Economic growth
- Parental involvement beyond discipline conferences
- Increase community awareness/involvement in educational arenas
- Non-traditional learning
- Increase volunteers into the classrooms
- Increase parental involvement / parent mentor program
- School/ community focus weaved in all aspects of life.
- Increase push for GED for parents.
- Positive promotion and community push for public education.
- Collaboration of community services or resources
- More group discussion in the community
- Equip teachers

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Laurens County

People Signed In 21

Participated In Survey 16

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	9	2	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	10	0	1	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	9	7	0	0	0	0	16
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	3	11	0	1	0	1	16
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	5	9	1	1	0	0	16
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	7	7	2	0	0	0	16

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	14	1	0	1	16
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	16	0	0	0	16

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	16	0	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	16	0	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	16	0	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	16	0	0	0	16
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	13	1	0	2	16

Comments

Will you "take back" our concerns/ barriers?

The meeting was helpful as it was.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More people in attendance.

Could we share the things that are now working in similar communities?

More diverse/ no African Americans or Hispanics were present.

Maybe prior to meeting, send out basic information to build appetite!

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
11	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Lee County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	4	2	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	2	0	0
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	4	3	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	4	2	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	5	1	0	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	4	2	0	0

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	6	0	0	1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	6	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	6	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	6	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	6	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	6	0	0	1
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	6	0	0	1

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Need more people here

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
3	0	1	2	0	0	1	0

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	0	7

Small Group Discussion Questions Lexington County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- SIC Survey=parent involvement
- SIC's imbedding goals in plans
- EEDA Clusters = relevance!
- SCHSL rules better engage students, better academic success.
- Senior Project Community Service.
- More business engagement (MEBA, mentors)
- Alternative programs/ systems
- Thinking Outside the Box.
- Community Roundtable
- Financial Commitment from the community.
- Shared facilities
- Additional resources
- Town meeting
- Fostering understanding of school safety issues as community issue.
- Teacher Recruitment Fair
- Community Coalition
- Parent volunteers and mentors
- Parenting center/parent educators
- School improvement councils
- Prayer walking schools
- Church-school partnerships (adopt-a-school)
- HUB, KEYS (after school tutoring)
- Strong school-business partnership
- Lexington 1 Technology Center
- Lexington County Support of Facilities
- Reading Buddies
- After school programs
- Middle college
- First Steps and other parenting programs
- Mentoring programs
- Technology advanced training
- Leadership academy
- Facilities
- Paying staff development
- Accurate adaptive diagnostic testing with prescriptive measures
- Expansion of cluster programs
- Course/credit recovery

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Time – educators, parents
- Complacency- problems around state
- General assembly-fully funded educators
- Government voucher support
- Property tax reform
- Language, literacy, of parents
- Growth-can't keep up facilities, teacher shortage
- Negative peers, influence, gangs, drugs
- Lack of parent involvement.
- Lack of discipline in classroom, time consuming
- Regulations (State/Federal)
- Funds
- Community attitude "lack of interest"
- Family commitment
- Lack of participation/ presence
- Cultural influences
- Lack of accountability
- Shortage of highly qualified teachers.
- Rapid growth
- IDEA 04 implementation
- Discipline – consistency to be constantly addressed
- Information distribution to support total child
- Vocal: "No New Taxes"
- Needs of non-college bound students.
- School Readiness
- Culture Barriers (socio-economic)
- Governor
- Time
- Lack of fiscal autonomy
- Poverty
- Communication among stake holders
- Sell public education
- Children having children
- Driver / diploma correlation

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- At risk students intervention
- Parent involvement strategies, collaboration with all groups in community.
- Mentor programs
- Plan for future facilities, staffing, and budgets.
- Address social problems as community
- Common Ground at the top of Government leadership
- Make teachers important
- Employ empowerment in leaders
- Increase involvement-faith based community in schools
- Combination of group community involvement (business, educators)
- Ensure equitable financial resources across the state.
- Work to open new lines of communication with parents and business industry. (Back to school Bash, Blitz, free school supplies)
- Increase teacher pay
- Build facilities to address rapid growth
- Stay current with technology.
- Maintain high expectations
- Support funding for education
- Support equity in funding
- Employer flexibility for parent involvement
- Time for teacher home visits
- Home economics/life skills in middle schools
- Strengthen arts in schools
- Promote family involvement
- Educate, promote, and foster the need of common ground
- Need for early education for all children
- Reading programs – more dynamic
- Sell public education
- Pray for public education
- Self improvement
- Become more politically active!!

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Participate in meetings
- Encourage other parents to be more active in schools
- Business managers foster parent involvement
- Tell younger parents how to get thru the information maze.
- Advocate for the positive results
- Attend SCSIC meetings
- Encourage churches to support education.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Lexington County

People Signed In 42

Participated In Survey 26

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	10	15	0	0	0	1	26
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	10	14	1	0	0	1	26
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	15	9	0	0	0	2	26
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	10	13	2	0	0	1	26
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	11	14	0	0	0	1	26
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	17	8	0	0	0	1	26

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	24	0	0	2	26
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	25	0	0	1	26

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	24	0	0	1	25
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	22	3	0	1	26
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	24	1	0	1	26
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	24	1	0	1	26
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	24	1	0	1	26

Comments

We ran out of time.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
15	5	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	27

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Marion County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- FMU Center for Excellence participation-on-going basis
- Ruby Payne Training Initiative
- ESL classes-Adult Education
- GED, Pre – GED - Adult Education
- Teacher retention bonuses
- Parent coordinators at each school and home/school connection
- Offering full day 4K program
- Center of Excellence (FMU)
- Adjusting instructional program to meet individual student needs (gear up, etc.)
- Graduate program for teachers
- Adjusted instructional day (start time)
- Provide computers to parents
- Expand Family Literacy programs
- Adult Education meeting needs of Hispanic families
- Services provided through DHEC
- Professional development for teachers
- Alternative school program
- Adult Education programs
- After school programs in faith based institutions
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse counseling
- *Palmetto Education Center*
 1. Pre 4 yr old program
 2. Parent center with /PAC
 3. Intervention Academy for older kids
 4. Credit recovery – online
 5. Partnership with FMU Center of Excellence
 6. Collaboration with Winthrop University to train administrators
 7. Coker at night – Mullins Tech. Center
 8. Florence Darlington Tech – Mullins Tech. Center
 9. Homework Center/ after school program
 10. Parents as teachers
- Parenting programs, family activities
- Career counseling in middle grades
- Center of Excellence – working with students of poverty
- Literacy night, standards workshops
- Volunteers from industry, mentors
- Using results from MAP testing to individualize instruction

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Have programs – need publicity; communication
- Difficult to compete with neighboring counties; recruitment/retention
- Lack of role models for students
- Education teacher pool/ fewer going into the profession
- Ensure heterogeneous grouping
- Salary of first year teachers to recruit and ongoing salary to retain quality teachers
- Equity among districts
- Lack of business resources
- Declining enrollment
- Parents have limited time, energy, education, and resources
- Population that doesn't value education
- Resistance to change
- Many agencies competing for same resources
- Losing African American males
- State transfers responsibility for meeting these goals to communities without the resources to meet the goals
- State sets all regulations without much local input (teacher, administration, etc.)
- Inadequate funding (equitable funding)
- Space
- Teacher shortage
- poverty cycle (*"poverty" interpretation- census vs. "free-lunch"*)
- competition for funding
- recruitment of qualified personnel (espanol minorities)
- shortage of childcare and after school services
- economic factors
- employment of parents outside community
- teachers not trained in issues of poverty
- teacher retention
- teacher/student ratio
- health issues/ special needs of students
- trust issues between school/ families

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Communication in the community
- Parent education
- Ability to work with diversity- varying educational needs- ESL; special education
- Citizens need to be politically active to support system
- Brainstorm/ collaborate to support economic development
- Establish stronger community relations (mentors, businesses, and industries)
- Mentoring programs
- Meeting between agencies to better coordinate services
- State leadership can not pass all responsibility to local entities for meeting goals, local must speak up.
- Engage all elements of the community
- Public Relations – all of community needs to know what is available
- Share existing resources
- Keep our politicians informed – engaged
- Business collaborations/ Faith community
- Moral support to schools/ education
- Increase involvement
- Involvement of faith-based community
- Involvement of businesses, industry

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Keep in touch with politicians/ be an advocate
- Reach out to the children
- Show your interest and concern
- Encourage others to share responsibility
- Take school- based programs into the community
- Mentoring
- Positive support as we go out in communities
- Grant writing (for technology)
- Communication with legislators
- As teachers and administrators have positive contact with parents

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Marion County

People Signed In 38

Participated In Survey 21

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	15	1	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	13	1	0	0	2	21
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	11	8	2	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	5	14	2	0	0	0	21
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	5	12	4	0	0	0	21
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	11	2	1	0	1	21

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	21	0	0	0	21

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	19	0	1	1	21
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	21	0	0	0	21
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	19	2	0	0	21

Comments

I think we have had these conversations over and over with each other. My hopes are that those with the means to enact positive change do so. EOC must make sure that rural school districts teacher salaries are equal to adjoining districts

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More information on changes/plans from the state level and suggestions on improvement.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
14		1	1			1		1		3	21

Small Group Discussion Questions Marlboro County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- CDEP vs. EIA funding
- Full day programs
- Expanding parenting programs
- Developmentally delayed classes
- Baby net and doctors office's referrals
- 1st steps
- PAT certification
- Monitoring growth thru MAP
- Expanding career (CATE)
- Stronger collaboration w/colleges and universities
- Most of students are enrolled in pre K
- All schools received Ruby Payne training
- Parenting programs at each school (parent coordinators)
- Started teacher incentive awards at some schools
- Magic Johnson Program Civic Center
- Achievement GAP 2003-04 17 of 22 issues addressed
- Transition of students – school to school, 9th grade academy
- Parenting coordinators in each school (Educators)
- Teacher mentoring program has increased teacher retention
- Bond referendum to improve facilities across district – came from achievement GAP Committee
- Educational partnerships with industries (ie - Oak River)
- Full day 4yr old program
- Not every student's needs are being met(family, funds, health, economics)
- ESOL Program, Ruby Payne training
- Faith – based community
- Business Partnership Relationship
- Pre K Initiative/ Head Start
- Recreation Department
- Higher Education
- Northeastern Tech (local satellite)
- Magic Johnson Initiative
- High School students enrolled in college courses
- Active in supporting the March of Dimes, Relay for Life, American Red Cross

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funds
- Facilities-technology, mold/mildew (health issues)
- Buses
- Lack of parent involvement/ enthusiasm
- Doing what's right for all children is not top priority for everyone
- Lack of highly qualified teachers/ staff
- Too many substitute teachers in the classroom
- People/ businesses aren't attracted to our area
- Aging facilities
- Distrust by community
- Demographics
- Poverty
- Literacy
- Drugs and gang action
- Health care
- Lack of trust
- Parental involvement
- Transportation
- Child care
- Parental involvement and support of schools
- Misunderstanding / Ineffective communication among community
- Community lacks passion for learning
- Lack of collaborative effort among agencies
- Shortage of faith – based commitment
- Politicizing education
- Lack of identity of teachers and administrators in community
- Community involvement
- Time factor
- Inability to retain best teachers in profession
- recruitment process
- being understood
- University training
- Human Resources (parents, qualified leaders
- literacy
- educational resources (accessible public library)
- Lack of collaboration between local government/ business/ educational leaders

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Develop trust (all stakeholders)
- More collaboration among parents, businesses
- Develop better lines of communication
- Early intervention for children
- Develop after school care- community involvement
- Improve housing
- Improve salaries
- Improve recreation
- Road system for industry
- Recruit more parents in adult education
- Improve health care
- Expose students to opportunities to increase their vision.
- Positive communication
- Public relations
- Celebrate successes
- Educate the community
- More volunteer human resources
- Community involvement
- Interaction (dialogue)
- Listen
- Community center – schools
- Work with business and business partners civic organizations
- High school – rotary involvement
- Develop Common Ground Committee- on going locally to continue this process
- Use community mentors / volunteers with at – risk students
- Go to school
- Community/school develop a program for drop-outs, at-risk students
- Work collaboratively with businesses, local government, and educational leaders to bring industry economic development
- Provide facilities that are conducive to learning
- Bring out of school educational activities to the community for example: cultural arts, basic skills activities, learning centers for parents

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Tutorial programs in local churches
- Be advocate for PUBLIC EDUCATION
- Renew our commitment to public education
- Everyone be positive
- Be willing to give of our time
- Be an advocate for each student
- Be involved
- Go to meetings(school)
- Urge parents to attend/ provide transportation
- Participate where possible be
- Be visible (all sides)
- Develop trust
- Support efforts to improve education!

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Marlboro County

People Signed In 43

Participated In Survey 13

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	3	10	0	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	9	0	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	5	7	0	0	0	0	12
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	2	11	0	0	0	0	13
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	11	0	0	0	0	13
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	5	8	0	0	0	0	13

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	12	0	1	0	13
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	13	0	0	0	13

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	13	0	0	0	13
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	11	2	0	0	13
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	12	1	0	0	13
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	13	0	0	0	13
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	13	0	0	0	13

Comments

Thank you-good job!

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Need more time

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
8	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	13

Small Group Discussion Questions McCormick County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Head Start
- First Steps
- Full Day 4-K
- Montessori 3-5 yr.
- JAG- Jobs For America's Graduates
- Piedmont Tech- Articulation Agreements
- Adult Ed.
- Mentoring – volunteer
- 1st Day of School America
- Parenting workshops
- Flexible times for report card pick up
- Parent child field trips
- Induction for 1st year teachers
- MHS- Recruitment Incentives
- District- Attendance , coursework reimbursement, laptops
- EDI- All students taught at grade level every day!
- Technology
- Virtual schools
- Parent, teacher reading program
- Montessori Kindergarten
- Adult literacy program
- Middle school mentoring program
- Adequate facilities and technology
- New MES/MMS facility used by community/Good technology support
- Allocation for poor schools being used to retain teachers.
- Community wide Mc Money program.
- Teachers mentoring new teachers.
- School based parent coordinator.
- Program to get feedback to teachers on student achievement.

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Low expectations
- Inter generational poverty
- Hopelessness
- Lack of role models
- Apathy
- Lack of jobs
- Retention of quality educators
- Rural area
- Teacher pay
- Declining enrollment
- Lack of decent employment in the area
- High school and athletic facilities not included in original board referendum.
- No economic development
- No housing- no social activities for young professionals
- Have not created a partnership between families, educators and community./poor communication-only weekly paper-no tv or radio
- No environment for all getting together

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Greater exposure for students and parents (college visits, museums, job sites, etc.)
- Additional career/graduate programs
- Chamber of Commerce-schools
- Build relationships...
- Foster academic excellence
- Support excellence in schools
- Reward excellence
- Get involved in improvement efforts
- Share resources with neighboring districts, etc.
- Visit the schools
- Value differences and difference of opinion.
- Identify and recognize good roll models.
- Foster partnerships between schools and retirees and community
- Improve adult literacy rates.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Adopt a program or school
- Promote teacher quality
- Positive attitude toward education
- Involvement in creating policy
- Become a teacher/ tutor

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

McCormick County

People Signed In 14

Participated In Survey 15

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	4	9	2	0	0	0	15
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	9	1	0	0	0	15
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	3	11	1	0	0	0	15
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	4	6	4	0	0	1	15
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	5	7	3	0	0	0	15
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	7	2	0	0	0	15

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	13	1	1	0	15
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	14	1	0	0	15

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	15	0	0	0	15
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	11	3	1	0	15
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	13	1	1	0	15
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	11	4	0	0	15
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	11	4	0	0	15

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Allow more interaction among participants and EOC representatives.

Overall the meeting was a good presentation, more about success of current initiative would be helpful.

Wish more of community could attend meetings like this.

Need more time.

Bring State goals in line with no child left behind

Explain thoughts for success that are being pursued.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
7	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	16

Small Group Discussion Questions Newberry County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Literacy Coaches
- Curriculum coordinators
- Montessori, Reading Recovery
- Reading First, SCRI Literacy
- A+
- Credit Recovery
- Mentors-Faith Based
- Mentors-Teachers (New)
- Alternative School
- Parenting Program
- Family Literacy
- Adult Education
- Parenting program
- Strong faith
- Building program
- Academic enrichment during school hours
- After school tutoring by churches
- YMCA, recreation programs, young life and youth groups
- Partnership with colleges-Piedmont Tech
- Planned meetings w/parents (progress reports)
- Company "needs programs (Louis Rich) Adult education
- Space and funding
- Recognizing teachers
- New building program
- Teacher cadet program
- School improvement process/strategic planning of schools and district
- Schools hosting community events
- After school programs
- City-wide internet access
- Advisor/advisee program
- SIC's
- Implementing EEDA
- Dual Credit
- AP courses
- Building program

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Poverty
- Single moms
- Uneducated mom-dropout
- TV babysitter
- High senior population (a disconnect)
- Lack of counseling (available)
- Taxes going up/ are negative
- Small industry base / lack of financial base lack of industry support
- Elder population
- Lack of parental involvement
- Lack of teachers
- Teacher turnover in some schools
- Turnover in administration
- Resources (money, personnel)
- Language barriers
- Housing infrastructure
- Changing demographics
- lack of community focus
- differences in values
- lack of state funding/ limited resources
- lack of parental education level
- lack of fathers in home
- community apathy
- LEP students
- Large percentage of families living below poverty level.

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Communicate/open minded
- Volunteer after school program in every school
- Financial support
- Recreation for youth
- Faith based support/leadership
- Positive-cheerleader for schools and their success
- Public recognition/honor acknowledge profession
- Teacher retention(Support/mentor)(Increase pay)
- Community involvement, support(welcome teachers)
- Housing

- Partnerships with businesses, church, community groups, mentoring, sponsoring events, speakers, chamber of commerce
- Discipline
- Promote positive assets of community schools
- Expanding early education
- Support technology upgrades
- Parental involvement
- Increase accessibility to more academically rigorous courses and encourage students to take advantage of them.
- Involvement in cooperation with support of schools by community.
- Adaptable and innovative
- Continue to work together as community members to provide and financially support adequate school facilities and technologies to enhance learning.
- Additional faith-based initiatives/ involvement
- More internships in schools, more opportunities for community/adults share life experiences
- Advocate for changes in the accountability system
- Educate the community about accountability
- Improve community outreach
- Increase program quality
- Improve teacher quality
- Provide parenting programs
- Talk to business community
- Speak to medical community about increasing involvement with schools
- Offer assistance for “welcome teacher” initiative.
- Make myself and others in the my business available to speak at schools or sponsor events.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Newberry County

People Signed In 22

Participated In Survey 18

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	6	7	2	1	0	2	18
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	7	1	3	0	1	18
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	7	9	2	0	0	0	18
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	4	10	2	1	0	1	18
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	9	2	0	1	0	18
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	6	10	2	0	0	0	18

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	15	1	1	1	18
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	14	1	2	1	18

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	14	1	2	1	18
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	15	3	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	16	2	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	17	1	0	0	18
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	13	4	1	0	18

Comments

Very good meeting! Thanks!

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More participation from community.

Better attendance.

Explain what purpose the information gathered will serve.

Less powerpoint lecture/more interaction w/others.

More participant

Have a stronger feeling something good will come out of this.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
8	4	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	18

Small Group Discussion Questions Oconee County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Parent education
- Resources (tech)
- Communication between state, school, volunteers, parents, and community
- Transportation (seeing improvements)
- Better coordination with different programs and skills of people.
- Providing good schools with well trained educators
- SDOC follow up with graduates/ non graduates (database)
- Special education population encouraged to stay in school until 21
- Reading strategies teacher in every elementary and middle school
- Seneca Presbyterian and other churches coordination tutoring/ mentoring programs with local middle schools
- Public library preschool program – good attendance
- Facilities- new nursing wing at HCC
- Literacy coaching
- Stars program for non-diploma special education students
- Long-Range Building Plans
- Capital improvement plan
- Oconee Alliance/ Economic development
- Family interventionist
- Teacher quality (mentor, recruit, retain)
- Donation of computers
- Lions Club Partnership
- Service Club Partnership
- Ed. Foundation
- Business in industry day
- Professional learning community
- Leadership Co-Hort, Staff Development
- CAT Bus
- Free transportation to higher education and public agencies
- Literacy program
- Early reading intervention in all elementary schools
- TCTC Expansion at HCC

- Nurse's program
- Health/Science
- Strategic plan
- Business-education partnership
- Partnerships with higher education
- Active PTA's in elementary/ community involvement
- Salem Lions-computers
- Net with OCA to address issues
- Family Learning Center
- Business educators

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Pre-school need after school programs
- Marketing the school district
- Lack of communication
- Lack of volunteers
- Single parent families
- Summer Lag time Alt. calendars
- PACT
- Increase our graduation rate
- Reduce drop out
- Improve transition at all levels
- Recruiting quality teachers
- Review salary
- Increase parental involvement
- Need of understanding/ appreciation of diversity
- Need of shared community facilities/ resources
- Expansion of 4k programs
- Cannot serve all at-risk preschoolers
- Language/cultural barriers
- Meth use BIG problem
- Poverty
- Low expectations
- Inflexibility of system to accommodate change (agency dependence)

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Long range funding plan
- High expectations from all community members
- Increase volunteerism

- Partnerships
- Tap all resources (community)
- PTO (Active) –family-school-community partnerships
- Coordinate/ increase communication between all stake holders
- Support/value diversity
- Teacher recruitment / retention
- Volunteers
- Be flexible/creative
- Meet with constituents
- Communicate
- Raise expectations for everyone
- Develop relationships with students to encourage continued participation
- Increase parental involvement
- Provide additional reading opportunities

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Oconee County

People Signed In 28

Participated In Survey 17

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	6	10	1	0	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	12	0	0	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	11	3	3	0	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	7	8	1	1	0	0	17
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	10	0	1	0	0	17
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	12	3	2	0	0	0	17

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	16	0	0	1	17
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	15	1	0	1	17

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	15	0	1	1	17
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	16	0	0	1	17
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	15	0	0	2	17
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	14	0	0	2	16
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	13	1	0	3	17

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
11	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	18

Small Group Discussion Questions

Orangeburg County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Pre-K education for all students
- Technology education is available
- Homework center
- Literacy programs
- Parenting Centers
- AR Program
- Developing quality teachers (Pre-service and In-Service)
- Parent Coordinators per school
- Parent volunteers (3 for Me)
- Lease computers for schools as opposed to purchasing
- EEDA with OC Tech
- IGP
- Virtual High schools
- Dual enrollment
- Course offerings
- Cope Career Center
- Boys & Girls Club
- SIC
- Strong partnership between technical college and school districts
 - Share resources
 - Adult education and literacy
 - OCEBA-Orangeburg-Calhoun Education and Business Alliance
- Credit recovery
- Every child ready to read (age group programs) 3-8
- First Steps and Head Start
- Community of Character
- Mobile Technology Bus/Van
 - Teach technology classes
 - Wireless capabilities
- Posi-teen
- Sunlight Club
- Faith community involvement
- Leadership programs at SC State
- Two universities that train teachers
- Library has databases with practice tests
- Assessment system and program to improve
- Literacy council helps parents help children
- Good school facilities

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- No continuity between teacher training-they have theory but no application/real life experiences
- Child care
 - When adults have programs
 - Close at 5:30
 - Cost & quality
 - Standards

- Working poor can't afford
- Working poor can't get support
- Teacher Shortages
 - Math/Science
 - Burnout
 - Location
 - Compensation
- Lack of technology infrastructure
 - Computers
 - Science lab equipment
- Early childhood education
 - 4-K all day or half day
- Room for improvement in facilities
- Serving disabled students
 - Physical
 - Learning
 - Expertise
 - Teachers
- Professional development
 - Low income
 - Technology
 - Middle School
- Need businesses to allow time off to attend school programs
- Transportation
- Awareness
- Time and money
- Support
- Shared community vision
- Community involvement
- Parental involvement
- Understanding our diverse communities
- Increase demands on teachers
- Tutoring after school – church
- Incentives for good grades
- Community breakfast for stuff
- Rotary scholarships
- Essay contests
- Junior leadership
- Educator the year
- Mentoring SCORE
- Community of character-catch a kid, etc.
- Flexibility of funds utilization
 - Expanding support and involvement from faith based organizations
 - Change the perception of school's climate for parents

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Increase the number of 4 year olds being served
- Increasing the knowledge of student learning styles
- People
- Stakeholders have own interests and need consensus among people
- Reluctant to change
- 20/80% rule already doing so much
- Focus more on students and less on statistics

- Reduce standardized testing, distressed students
- Improve access to technology and knowing what to do with it
- More books, reading-balance of technology, reading, video
- Erosion of family
- Parents need to be in charge of their children, control, boundaries
- Competing interests-electronic games, TV, text messaging, etc.
- Facility and technology upgrades
- Money and support
- Political support
- Poverty Level/Generational
- Divisions in community
- How to recruit people to Orangeburg
- Understand/educate ethnic diversity
- Communicate the vision
- Take Action
- Follow thru
- Re-evaluate self
- Equally involve all stakeholders
- Coordinated Efforts (Community Mtgs.)
- Establish Who's Driving the Ship
- Galvanize the community
- Support Public school education
- Volunteer, mentoring, training
- Career fair
- Community resources available to all
- Educate low income to take advantage of services/programs/opportunities
- Work to reduce GAP
- Collaborate and partner
- Communication
 - Web
 - Media
- Come together for the good of the students

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Volunteer
- Community to buy into the benefits of education thru communication
- Reward good behavior
- Encouraging students
- Being a part of a village
- Get students more involved in their own education and solutions to some of the problems

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Orangeburg County

People Signed In 33

Participated In Survey 23

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	8	15					23
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	16	2				23
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	8	14				1	23
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	7	13	3				23
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	8	10	3			2	23
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	11	10	2				23

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	20	2		1	23
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	20	1	1	1	23

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	20	1	1	1	23
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	19	3		1	23
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	18	4		1	23
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	17	5		1	23
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	17	5		1	23

Comments

Meeting was very helpful

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More discussion on how the results of these sessions will be used.

List of those at the meeting made available to participants

More time for total meeting

Schedule follow-up meetings

A series of meetings that will address these issues and a task force for education development will help

Students have a voice too. We should really involve some students as to

Larger meeting space.

State what is now and put the system into place.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
9	4	2	3			4		1			23

Small Group Discussion Questions Pickens County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Technology Committee District Wide
- Tested/ Assessment based k-5 and up (helps focus on different instruction.
- Child-care Businesses Alliance/ Book Flood-United Way / First Steps
- Strong adult program
- Parent education program at North Side
- WINGS – teen parents
- TBS – Medicaid
- Parents as teachers
- Service Learning
- Cadet-Teacher
- After school programs
- Student-tutoring
- Gateway to college
- Career focus through EEDA
- Bridge Program
- Adult graduate studies for non-traditional students
- Local school initiatives
- Parental involvement
- CU has revamped education leadership curriculum
- Pickens County News
- Visioning 2025 process
- School/Business partnerships
- Expansion of k-4 programs
- Dual enrollment @ TCTC
- Middle college @ TCTC
- Star Academy
- Technology Task Force in motion
- Pickens Education Partnership
- Parenting program

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parent involvement
- Engaging students
- Improve school facilities
- Technologies
- Age of voters
- Community and business involvement
- Lack of coordination
- (county-wide) marketing
- Lack of quality pre-k
- Programs
- Mentoring
- Challenging programs for all levels of students
- Poverty/resources
- Collaboration between education committee, health committee, and parents
- Health screening
- Specialized training for early intervention
- Changing cultures/languages
- AP credit courses
- Serious partnerships between agencies/schools are missing
- Negative press/ "agendas" from local papers
- Parental apathy
- Proliferation of misinformation
- Public apathy
- Lack of parent education programs

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Coordination between organizations
- Getting information out
- Addressing emotional intelligence
- Include mental health organization
- Get new businesses in county
- Parents/ Industry/ Education helping to get students excited in math and science
- Innovative approaches (free)

- Facilities-learning environment
- Total community support for family
- parental involvement
- educate parents
- assume responsibility
- promote volunteerism and mentoring
- increase dialogue among professionals in community

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Pickens County

People Signed In 31

Participated In Survey 26

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	12	10	2	2	0	0	26
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	9	14	2	1	0	0	26
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	17	6	2	0	0	1	26
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	11	12	1	1	0	1	26
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	11	11	2	1	0	1	26
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	10	12	3	0		1	26

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	24	0	1	1	26
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	19	1	6	0	26

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	24	2	0	0	26
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	17	7	0	2	26
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	23	3	0	0	26
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	24	1	0	1	26
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	18	5	0	3	26

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More time i in groups

help get the truth to the public

Have different person introduce/ give status report-Senator Fair was very ineffective.

Would have liked more on the EOC

This is one of a few instances that professionals are together. A little more time to develop networking and partnerships to get things done.

Provide attendees with master list of fellow attendees/ organization/ contact numbers for follow-up; expand time for questions/answers

Clearly define outcomes desired

I saw two people sleeping across the room. Why were they invited? Are they involved in this process?

It was very positive!

Continue to support educators.

I do appreciate your time to get input from districts.

Get together with school officials to share some ideas about providing leadership for kids.

Coffee- Next Steps-with coordinated follow up.

A call to action for us.

More time in small groups-Great discussions!

Clearer presentation of role of EOC and status of education achievement.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
16	3	1	7	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	35

Small Group Discussion Questions Richland County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- After school reading tutorial, writing skills, comprehension
- St. Martin in Fields adopted Crayton Middle School – homework center.
- Parent meetings
- MEBA – Midlands Ed. and Business Alliance- resources – speakers materials
- Community initiative to prevent teenage pregnancy.
- Commitment to collaboration between schools/non profits/ community.
- MEBA- attempt to communicate w/ work force and students needs.
- Collaboration between higher education and community/ schools in this area
- Parent resource centers (First Steps)
- Parent educators, 3-4 yr olds.
- Various forms of assessment to identify needs
- Implementation of EEDA
- Partnerships with tech schools/colleges
- Future teachers
- Early internships
- Recruit nationwide
- Increase pay and benefits.
- Increase virtual learning “any time and any where”
- Through chamber of commerce business are partnering with schools.
- Civic organizations are having members serve as mentors to children
- Many churches are becoming more active with student issues
- Neighborhood associations are also involved.
- Community involvement
- Churches
- City of Columbia
- R.C. Rec. Comm.
- Building Renovation
- Parent Education
- Schools as “full-service” facilities
- Expanded 4K education for students
- Expanded education opportunities for at risk students.
- State libraries have DISCUS for all students
- High schools that work

- After schools – faith based, schools, male success, TRIO
- Middle college
- 9th grade academy
- JAG (high school/ on-job training
- Middle/ elementary of school academy of science.
- Awards program / incentives from business community.
- Summer science camp
- Volunteer program
- TASC (teen after school/ center divert kids from DJJ Thru after school.
- Center of excellence for education and equipped for AA students.
- School choices within districts (alternatives-middle college, smaller learning environment, single gender.
- Facility upgrade
- Community focus on issues (substance abuse, gangs, truancy)
- Single gender classes
- University partnerships
- Professional development
- K-20 collaboration
- Community centers in schools

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parental involvement
- Media distractions television, video, music
- Alternative career path thru trade, tech schools
- Transitory families
- Unfunded mandates
- Flex time for parents to visit schools
- Welcome parents community involvement
- Communication
- Funding and real priority on education.
- Continuity in programs at district one.
- Focused inward and not reaching out yet.
- Families lack of approach to build family structure
- Spiritual and intellectual discipline
- High poverty level
- Transportation to parenting classes, services, etc.

- Stronger emphasis on birth-4 development
- SC image
- Community needs to step up (churches, businesses, civic
- Teacher pay-re-evaluate scale and experience
- Teacher flexibility/support structure.
- Lack of needed time and money are critical barriers.
- Parent involvement can be lacking, due to other demands on their time.
- So many people are resistant to change.
- So many bureaucratic demands limit what teachers can do.
- Increased diversity of students and families creates a barrier.
- Common will.
- Building capacity with a need for a supportive infrastructure.
- Highly qualified staff
- Recruitment to education
- Need for earlier behavioral interventions
- Changing population
- Retain staff
- Transportation/child care
- Lack of parental education
- Poor economy/ rural areas
- Lack of public relations
- Student motivation
- Education disconnect (lack of civic engagement)
- Resources / coordination
- Lack of understanding of diversity and ability.
- Positive communication with families.
- Issues no control-SAPS energy (truancy, drugs, tardiness, crime on campus, security, accountability).
- Building sense of community
- Economics/ economic development
- Resources to families

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Community briefings to inform and solicit input
- Allow community use of schools without cost.
- More support for after school learning.
- Public service announcements information on where/how to get help.
- Mentor families

- Flex time for parents to visit
- Transportation schools / churches
- Group discussions aimed at uncovering state/ community needs.
- Faith based initiative to support public education/ students
- Help improve family unit
- Support with action, money, and public transportation
- Promote parenting skills and understanding of child development Birth-4 and 4K
- Support project hope and other groups working with teenagers in communities
- Use community resources (sr. citizens, get elected officials involved)
- Let teachers be more vocal
- Each person could be a bit more involved that her/she is.
- Demand of our elected officials that schools receive adequate funding.
- Find ways to make parents more accountable
- As individuals, we must be advocates to ask others to be more active in their local schools.
- Community meetings on this topic must continue.
- Supportive involvement with community dialogue.
- Volunteering
- College/ secondary institution
- Support of K-12
- Promote school as community service center
- Be realistic
- Marketing and promotions of best practices.
- Pool together local partnerships and resources.
- Mini-empowerment centers.
- Using public libraries as a community center
- Districts have a liason between school and church and civic groups.
- Use SIC, PTO, AND United Way...
- Incentives for achievement.
- Young parents after school program.
- Create responsive environment
- Building county aware.
- Forums (county, focus groups
- Develop plans of action / strategic
- More structure system.
- Mentoring.
- Rules of engagement (core values)
- Buy In
- Community engagement in school (business, retires, college-age)
- Consistency

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Be informed
- Be involved
- Recruit involvement, educators
- Be positive
- Reach beyond comfort zone.
- Volunteer in schools
- Become actively involved.
- Business mentor
- advocate

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Richland County

People Signed In 0

Participated In Survey 51

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	24	24	2	0	0	1	51
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	27	24	0	0	0	0	51
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	31	19	1	0	0	0	51
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	24	21	4	0	0	2	51
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	23	22	4	0	0	2	51
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	33	13	4	1	0	0	51

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	45	0	3	3	51
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	46	1	0	4	51

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	44	6	1	0	51
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	33	17	1	0	51
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	40	9	1	1	51
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	48	2	0	1	51
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	42	5	0	4	51

Comments

I would love to meet again!

The meeting space was nice but it would have been good to have tables for the breakout session.

This was a very informative meeting, however, two hours is not sufficient time. Some folk are longwinded and others don't get to speak. One suggestion \

The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was just long enough to keep everyone focused.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Really emphasize not repeating suggestions.

Share contact info. Allow more time in small groups.

Longer or repeat it!

Groups need to be defined and assigned based on representation of background and ethnicity.

More time allowed for group discussions.

Categorized break-out groups, follow-up communication with participants.

Start on time.

A more appropriate environment for group discussions.

Breakouts focus on one question.

Smaller number/ longer time to discuss.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
33	3	2	15	1	0	7	0	0	1	2	64

would be to allow 10-12 minutes for group/breakout activity. Schedule meeting for 2 1/2 hours. Better to dismiss early than late.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Saluda County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- DRAKITS(Balanced literacy) –Hear appropriate read alouds
- Scheduling (driven by assessment and instruction)
- Materials (top notch)
- Professional development (sustained)
- Writing scores (top notch)
- Teacher recruitment out of state
- ESOL students intense focus on English
- Project STAR/Project RED (Reduced GAP)
- Established level of trust (ESOL)

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Assessment results get to schools too late
- NO carrot-only a whip
- Teacher retention
- SDE Support/disconnected
- Hispanic issue-effects support of schools
- NO industry
- NO luxury apartments

List the 5 most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Keeping good relationships; developing trust
- Work on small businesses/ utilities to help with teacher retention
- Recruit industry

List the 5 most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

-

Community Meetings Evaluation Form Saluda County

People Signed In 3

Participated In Survey 1

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee		1					1
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina		1					1
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	1						1
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education		1					1
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education		1					1
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful						1	1

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	1				1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	1				1

Small Group Discussion Questions Spartanburg County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Facilities are being upgraded
- Technology-more funds and results
- Admin. Academy- 1st in Spartanburg
- High rate of advanced degrees- supported money by districts
- Family connections/parent facilitator (Spartanburg #7)
- Some things in some districts- not others
- EEDA
- More dialogue-Higher education and high schools but employers-technical
- 0-5 much resistance to rate early childhood programs (legislative)
- 4/200 are nationally accredited.
- PCD
- K-4
- Literacy
- Health
- After school / ext. year
- Foundation mentoring
- Alternative schools
- Fresh start
- SCAS
- Drop out prevention
- Teacher pay/ tuition
- Teacher interns
- Partnering with higher education
- Library partnerships with public schools to promote reading
- Faith based partnerships for mentoring, tutoring, and leadership development
- Citizen scholars program-mentoring/financial advisement team building
- Induction/retention programs
- Commitment to adequate compensation financially.
- Active First Steps
- Improving childcare
- 4 family literacy sites
- Altrusa Club- parenting tips and information on adult ed
- School to work programs
- Teacher CADET programs

- Bonner Scholars-Wofford mentoring in schools
- Imagination Library-6500 children registered
- Dual enrollment program
- Charles Lea Center
- 4-K for special risk children and 3-K
- ARTICULATION
- Good school facilities
- Leadership councils
- EASL/ AP
- Upward Bound
- Childcare education at SCC
- Life, Hope Scholarships
- Pre – Service- Credit bearing for practicum's for teachers training
- Experience in classroom is varied by school, grade level
- Practicum placement begins early
- Spartanburg Housing Authority-11 quality housing issues
- District 7 working on stronger community collaboration to support individual students
- Individual schools going in to the communities where students are.
- Citizenship scholars program
- Upstate W/B task force net-educators and industry leaders.
- Funds for grants – project success, - achieve, etc.
- Dual credit with Spartanburg community college, USC upstate, Spartanburg Methodist College
- Strong adult education
- College town initiative.

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Spine at state level
- Drugs in Spartanburg
- One size fits all system of education
- Individual
- Paperwork
- Lowest common denominator
- Teaching as career choice
- Funds-ESOL, special programs
- Poverty

- Poor daycare
- Transient families
- Teen pregnancy
- Community centers
- Learning labs
- Poverty
- Parenting
- Adequate funding for schools
- Alignment of alignment
- Generational cycle of poverty and low literacy
- Little or no motivation (of students)
- Lack of respect for teachers education
- Changing culture and environment
- 7 school districts
- percentage of adult population that has not completed high school, college, or have a positive educational experience-don't
- know how to support their own children
- money – staff
- Aging population-within city- land locked.
- shifting from textile based economy to other industry

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Local rating system – ECD
- Families need support
- Paradigm shift in thinking about education
- Support
- Encourage grant writing
- Reading programs
- Teen pregnancy prevention
- Early childhood intervention
- Partnerships
- Faith community
- Working with legislative delegation re: funding and regulations
- Mentoring
- Encourage collaboration of agencies/ organizations providing services
- Follow through on community improvement plan

- Funding for additional parenting programs
- 4-K for all
- recruit and retain quality teachers
- Provide assistance and after school placement for children from 6-10th grades. Parents don't know where to turn.
- Create conditions for more dialogue
- Synchronize our resources
- Mandate parent education classes in high school and day care for students with children on site at high schools and middle schools/junior high
- Building relationships between school and parents
- Stress importance of job prep-extended education opportunities-co-op-2 yr degrees
- Mentor/ advocate
- Stress positive more than negative- student success vs. failure
- Visit a school- 1 school per year
- Take advantage of opportunities to promote the good in our schools.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Better communication with families
- Communicate sense of urgency
- Refine school clusters
- Encourage "right" decisions
- Have courage to lead

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Spartanburg County

People Signed In 35
Participated In Survey 20

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	7	13	0	0	0	0	20
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	6	12	1	1	0	0	20
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	11	9	0	0	0	0	20
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	6	10	3	0	0	1	20
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	6	10	3	1	0	0	20
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	4	14	2	0	0	0	20

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	15	3	1	0	19
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	12	2	4	1	19

Small Group Discussion Questions Sumter County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Visioning process (learn)
- Project Turnaround
- Manufacturing technology
- Sumter career readiness
- Community (involve businesses into partnerships with schools)
- COC and Visioning
- Higher education involvement in schools
- Middle school career counselors
- Success By Six
- Hope Centers
- After school programs-(mobile magnets
- Boys and Girls
- Reach out and Read
- Chamber SEC. Ed Comm.
- Early Head Start
- Adult / Literacy Center
- Health Reach
- Family Outreach in every school / Full-time
- Morris College mentors programs show AFB
- Career specialists in middle schools

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Financial resources
- Apathy
- Anti public education climate
- Societal changes
- Human and physical resources
- Lack of business mentors
- Overwhelming- solve "all" problems social, physical, etc
- Track and target success of individual programs.
- What does PACT-HSAP really measure?
- Wasting money

- Schools get no feedback on what students miss on the tests (How can teachers improve without feedback?)(Need to use the normal national test like other states use.)
- Poverty
- Need smaller classes and year round, longer instructing days.
- Extended day/ extra curricular activities in elementary.
- Recess gone
- Children having children
- Breakdown in traditional family from a support stand point
- Discipline-lack of respect by student, lack of parenting
- Understanding diverse, cultures, economic, and language barriers
- Emergence of gangs and bullying.

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Adequate funding
- Commitment to public education
- Experience rich culture
- Coordination of services
- Improved alternative student services
- More than minimal financial resources
- Provide one-on-one mentoring from business community
- Positive support from business community.
- Technical-track alternatives for success
- Talk to businesses
- Take advantage of personal relationships in the community.
- More alternative learning centers and paths for students
- Go back to community schools
- Community-wide mentor/ tutor program
- Community-wide focus on the importance of education
- Open and honest, 2-way communication between schools and business community.
- Exit survey of families leaving.

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Mentor
- Ask questions
- Communicate with legislators.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Sumter County

People Signed In 21

Participated In Survey 20

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	8	8	1	0	0	3	20
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	7	10	1	0	0	2	20
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	10	9	1	0	0	0	20
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	5	8	3	1	0	3	20
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	4	13	0	0	0	3	20
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	9	8	2	0	0	1	20

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	19	0	0	1	20
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	19	0	0	1	20

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	20	0	0	0	20
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	13	7	0	0	20
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	17	3	0	0	20
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	19	1	0	0	20
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	18	2	0	0	20

Comments

This was my first meeting and would love to continue and to be an asset.

Excellent!

This should have been done many years ago.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More time.

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
13	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	20

Small Group Discussion Questions Union County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Mentoring Programs
- Share facilities with parks and recreation and have partnerships with county.
- Strengthened the teacher pay scale
- Aggressive public relations program
- Improved web-site
- Implemented technology up grades (new computers)
- Partners with faith based organizations
- Ruby Payne Training
- High Schools that work (All 3 High Schools)
- Aggressive teacher training (Early release days)
- Ruby Paine – to help students who live in poverty.
- 21st century tutoring 3rd and 4th graders in all the elementary schools
- Dual credits at the High School
- Seat time – students that are behind, attend the achievement academy.

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funds
- Failure to reach consensus on key issues
- Adequate and equitable facilities
- Technology infrastructure
- Money, teachers/students ratio
- Lack of business role models.
- Poverty cycle
- Lack of community approach to education

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Improve communication
- More positive publicity
- Community input
- Town meetings
- More formalize communication between business and education leaders. (about educational needs)
- More positive media exposure to engage more parents and the community into the educational process
- Target middle school students community effort
- Partnership the media with the schools for all to address the needs of the educational process
- Take politics out and focus, focus on **EDUCATION**

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Union County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	5	5	2	1
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	4	7	1	1
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	4	8	1	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	3	7	2	1
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	2	10	1	0
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	5	8	0	1

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	13	0	0	1
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	12	0	1	1
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	9	3	1	1
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	8	5	1	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	9	4	0	1
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	12	1	0	1
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	12	1	0	1

Comments

Well done!

Too much "presentations" not enough basic.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

We should have involved some parents to get their input.

Invite reps. From local news media to participate.

A break down on local states.

Focus on solutions.

Greater emphasis on activity and outcomes/deliverables

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
10	3	1	1	0	0	2	0

Participated In Survey	14
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[illegible][illegible]

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	0	0	17

Small Group Discussion Questions

Williamsburg County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Mentors for 2nd year compared to 1 year for 1st year teachers
- Full implementation involving all stakeholders
- EEDA
- New school in Hemingway area
- Increase focus on Early Childhood
- Increase parents involvement

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Poverty
- Job locations
- Social outlets
- 2nd family living condition
- Taxes
- Attracting jobs
- Rural/geographic location
- Parent education level

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Pay incentives
- Recognize worth of each student
- Except each other
- Community involvement/ Greater encouragement
- Educate faith community

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Make parents more aware that they have support
- Become a mentor
- Emphasize the importance of education at all opportunities
- Encourage business and industry to take a lead in influencing parents to participate in children's education
- Enlist support of ministerial association
- Strengthen PTO
- Provide role models for students

Community Meetings Evaluation Form

Williamsburg County

People Signed In **13**

Participated In Survey 11

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	9	2	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	5	6	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	5	6	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	1	10	0	0	0	0	11
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	4	7	0	0	0	0	11
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	5	6	0	0	0	0	11

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR	Totals
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	10	0	0	1	11
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	11	0	0	0	11

The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	11	0	0	0	11
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	10	1	0	0	11
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	11	0	0	0	11
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	10	0	0	1	11
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	10	0	0	1	11

Comments

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

More advertisement

More info/narrative/supporting documentation regarding the purpose of the meeting prior to the meeting

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Public Library Informal Education

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical	Media	Other	NR	Total
6	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	11

Small Group Discussion Questions York County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Increasing the number of four year old classes
- Expanding alternative programs
- Academic plans as well as implementing EEDA - keep students as central focus
- Increased ESOL services
- Expanding technology to address student needs individually
- Expanding collaboration among community i.e. chambers, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Jr. Achievement...
- Fort Mill – Academy for nontraditional teaching
- Rock Hill- Phoenix Academy Non-Traditional approach
 - a) Literacy Walk
 - b) Rebound
 - c) Ninth Grade Academy
 - d) Parents as teachers programs
 - e) Family literacy
 - f) ESL
 - g) Parent Smart/ Leap Ahead
- Clover – Students engagement initiative
- Rosewood Elementary – Study with city diversity
- Chester – Ruby Payne research/ initiative
- Keeping up with early childhood issue – Directors communicating with EOC
- York Tech working with EOC in higher education training
- High School career clusters program
- Academy/ alternative programs- warm inviting learning environments
- Strong family literacy components
- First steps
- **Need** : so many students that we do not serve
- Family connection
- **Need** : Services for Special Ed. early childhood services
- Strength- after school programs /6th grade ex. – need to expand offering – Example in Rock Hill – the connection
- School to work program
- Community collaborations/ partnerships
- Joint board meeting of 4 local boards in York County – Oct. 19

- Community outreach programs
- New middle level certified program
- Recognize need for alternative programs (different school times/ days)
- Growing our own administrators locally
- CERA – TIR's provide services
- Parenting programs / resources
- Circle of cooperation between schools and government and businesses
- Good curriculum

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Funding
- growth exceeding current resources
- challenging expectations for all subgroups
- transportation
- communication
- fluctuating standards
- limited opportunities for professional development
- fatigue and burnout
- attracting science , math, and special education teachers
- understand complex issues
- Effective data
- Growth shifting state funding
- No accountability for home school/ charter, private etc.
- School boards not involved/ speaking out
- Population/ diversity- schools cannot keep up
- Poverty issue is very large – Hard to solve at school level
- History of illiteracy and poverty in the state
- York Co. has reputation of being affluent – not so!
- Transportation
- Growth-complacency
- Funding
- Time
- Poverty
- More community involvement
- Create / grow new leaders
- Lack of communication to all segments of the community

- Concern- make things easier for families having difficulties already to offer positive support, be involved, place for their child after school – choices with supervised activities- academic/ sports utilize facilities
- Lack of local control
- Higher ed offered in area (Winthrop/York Tech) need stronger partnership
- Need strategic plan for area
- Lack of leadership to develop strategic plan
- Barriers for teachers wanting early childhood degree travel York Tech to Columbia difficult instead of Winthrop
- Need to make schools more inviting to parents
- Generational poverty
- Testing
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of access to technology after school and other resources
- Transportation
- Impact of population growth on school
- Lack of technology/ computers in school per student
- Negative publicity
- Educators lack of political knowledge

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Effective communication among all state holders
- Follow through on goals and expectations
- Ensuring we go from good to great by “working our plan”.
- Political advocacy
- Parent education and involvement
- Relationship with families
- Involve higher education
- Establish relationship between school district and business community
- Make schools center of activity
- Levels of government meet regularly to discuss common goals
- Time and man-power
- Finding more resources/ funding
- Finding coordinators/ leaders – to coordinate common ground – What do we have? How can we share? – Work together. How can we know who is doing what?
- Local view, sometimes narrow – some areas high poverty in state – Business employing state wide.
- Buildings – Use, renovate facilities that are vacant for programs – concern safety, pleasant environment

- Early childhood / after school programs
- Involve community to make change
- Leaders talk/ share resources – Superintendents collaborate
- Communication
- Remain/ become politically active
- Make the child center of focus
- Continuity in curriculum and educators
- Incentives to retain good teachers

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

Community Meetings Evaluation Form Colleton County

Please check the appropriate response to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
I know more about the role of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee	9	12	0	5
I have a greater understanding of the status of education achievement in South Carolina	9	11	2	4
I have a greater understanding of the Common Ground Initiative	14	11	0	0
I have a greater understanding of what my role should be to help improve education	6	12	1	4
I have a greater understanding of what my community's role should be to help improve education	5	15	3	3
The Common Ground break out activity was helpful	12	8	1	5

	Sufficient	Insufficient	Too Long	NR
The time allotted for the Welcome & Introductions was	24	1	1	0
The time allotted for the status report on achievement was	23	0	3	0
The time allotted for the Common Ground presentation was	23	0	3	0
The time allotted for the Break Out Activity was	14	10	2	0
The time allotted for the Group Reports was	18	5	3	0
The time allotted for the Closing Comments was	23	1	0	2
The time allotted for the Questions & Comments was	23	1	0	2

Comments

Need sound sysem, questions and comments were not always heard clearly

Good session

Great meeting / would have liked for it to have been longer

Send out presentation info and questions in advance- more time / smaller groups for discussion/ The time all

The meeting was very beneficial. Groups need to continue to meet periodically to discuss educational issues.

Coffee! Too large of scale/ poor sound and visuals both in general session and in breakout. Poor Content

Had difficulty hearing speaker. Perhaps a microphone for larger group with larger area.

Common Ground break out activity was not long enough.

How could this meeting have been more helpful?

Comment made about parent participation/ could be improved if time done differently maybe hold at 2 different

More community involvement-parents? / students?

Make the group smaller, less educators, more business.

More time for breakout groups (smaller groups)/ refreshments

Too much representation from education community; other areas/ communities under represented

More info prior to meeting/ copy of presentation/ list of attendees

With this amount of participants groups should have been planned for smaller setting with maybe cross section

Please circle the ONE group you best represent:

Educator	Business	Government	Parent	Student	Clergy	Civic Leader	Medical
15	2	0	4	0	0	1	0

Participated In Survey	25
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Strongly Disagree	NR	Totals
0	0	26
0	0	26
1	0	26
1	2	26
0	0	26
0	0	26

[illegible]

otted for Group Reports stared at 10:00 - should have been skipped.
.

nt times 1 for education and 1 for parents.

on of districts.

Media	Other	NR	Total
0	2	1	25